

the news

Published by The Melbourne
Bushwalkers

Edition 233

July 1968

Price 3c.

Registered at G.P.C. Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical

YOUTH COUNCIL OF VICTORIA :

People interested in learning of opportunities for overseas service and training would be advised to attend the following talks on Wednesday 21st August, 1968 at 7.45 a.m. at the Y.W.C.A., 60 Russell Street, Melbourne.

Speakers

Miss MARY CONSIDINE Field Officer with the Overseas Service Bureau, who spent a year teaching in New Guinea through Australian Volunteer Abroad.

Miss MARGARET PAPST, who recently returned from an overseas study trip to the United Kingdom, United States of America and Canada.

Topics

OVERSEAS SERVICE: Australian Volunteers Abroad programme, other long-term 1 or 2 year service projects in Asia, Africa, etc., short-term work camps in Europe and elsewhere, the nature of voluntary service and how to prepare for it.

OVERSEAS TRAINING: Opportunities for Australians to participate in overseas training programmes, various types of lay training and study centres around the world, camps, conferences, etc.

The programme will be of interest to those planning overseas trips, and interested in taking part in short-term camps, courses, etc., in the countries they will be visiting.

* + * +* + * + * +* * +* * +* +* +*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE
HALF- YEARLY GENERAL MEETING WILL BE
HELD ON AUGUST 16th 1968 at 8.00 p.m.

161 FLINDERS LANE

Sue Taylor
Hon. Sec.

* + * +* + * + * +* * +* * +* +* +*

August 2	Athol Schafer	August 23	Michael Griffen
9	Tim Dent	30	Shirley Treloar
16	John Sparksman		

GENERAL INFORMATION ON CLUB EQUIPMENT :

Michael Griffen (not again) is now equipment officer.
The equipment situation is at present under review. This will probably result in several changes being made, both to the procedure of hiring equipment and to the scale of charges.

- Until the new procedure and charges are determined, you are advised of the following interim conditions :
- (i) No equipment will be hired out unless a deposit is paid. This deposit is at present a flat rate of \$2-00.
 - (ii) Deposits will be refunded by the reasurer, Charlie Weiling, or advice from the equipment officer. The present system of leaving sufficient money in the equipment box to cover refunds will thus be discontinued.
 - (iii) Current penalty rates for overdue equipment will be rigorously applied. Failure to pay imposed rates will result in notification being given to the Committee, and may jeopardize membership or prospective membership.

AA

UU

SS

W

AA

II

KK

KK

II

Trot along to Auski's (9, Hardware St. Melb) for all that bushwalking equipment. All year round service in packs, parkas, socks, stoves, tents, dehyd and acres of other stud. Go along and inspect for yourself.

*****AUSKI..AUSKI..AUSKI

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR :

As previously mentioned in June issue of "News" the following slides nights will be on :: these dates ::

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Personality Slide Night | 8th November. |
| 2. Christmas to Sept, slides | 6th September. |
| 3. Wilky story- | 11th October |
| 4. Sterio slides -- | 20th September. |

It is proposed that films should be obtained and shown on Club nights as well, though this will be something not necessarily on bushwalking or climbing, but just generally. indigenous flora and fauna. and such like.

THANKS :
I wish to express my appreciation to Michael Griffen, Marion Siseman for contributing articles of "Along the track" and especially Mike's grand effort on summarising his two Walks. Also to merry band of Newsmen....

Rather than look to Marion and Michael for continued support in preparing the next issue of "News" I would like to think that articles come from other sources. I hope I am right. (Articles to be sent to 197 Station St., 3196) Ed..

The new address list should be typed ready to be printed and sent out to members next month - i.e. August. If you are wondering when it will be... Next Issue - there will be an article on the M.U.M.C. 24 Hour Walk

RAMBLING AROUND A ROCK PILE

Pitch darkness. We arrive at Mt. Arapiles and pitch tents. What will the place look like?

2 a.m., 3 a.m., 4 a.m. Shattering noises of a de-muffled vehicle and various loud bangs. A rifle perhaps? Is the place full of local louts or just late arrivals?

Morning. Crisp. Clear The sun slants through large gums and makes patterns on the dewy short grass. We emerge from sleep and tents and are immediately impressed. The grass sweeps gently up to the base of high red cliffs. Deep shadows fill the clefts, throw towers of rock into sharp relief, show where later some of the dozens of others awakening will be climbing. But we have not come to climb-- just to explore this gnarled massif with its scrub-covered plateau atop.

Breakfast over, we set out climbing a gully and soon reach the plateau. The scrub is scratchy but not too thick and walking is not difficult. The bright blooms of golden wattle and flame heath brighten the scrub's dull colour. A scramble to the summit of the high cliffs behind the camp and we look down at the "ant climbers" below and out at the broad expanse of Wimmera farmland pushing at the edge of the Little Desert and stretching to the jagged Grampians. A chain of lakes to the south west shows what was probably once a former bed of the Wimmera River. We visit the fire tower and micro-wave station on other rocky knobs on the plateau, then lunch beside a rock pool. A stumpy-tail comes out looking for a meal too. Dipping down off the plateau we wander through open forest, run the gauntlet of a golf course and arrive back at camp with plenty of time to eat before the early sunset.

Sunday It is a warm sunny day, a perfect walking day. We wander along at the base of the high cliffs for about a mile and a half. The sandstone towers above are carved to impressive columns by wind and water. Blocks hundreds of feet high are separated from the main face and smaller pieces are scattered over the talus slope. The rock climbers know a hundred routes up now, yet only in 1963 was Arapiles first climbed by them. We leave the cliffs and cross some paddocks to Mitre Rock, a worn stump of rock pile detached from the main formation. It provides us with some interesting scrambling.

A high rocky bluff on the main plateau is the next objective. Between us and it lies some scrub which the leader (bless him) presumes to be open forest as found yesterday. Alas, he is wrong, and we battle for a couple of miles through thick mallee scrub. At last, after some more rock scrambling, we arrive hungrey and dishevelled on top of the bluff and sit down to a well-earned lunch under the native pines which are thriving well on this outcrop. Some more scrub-bashing on the descent, then we follow yesterday's route through the golf course to camp.

Monday. Mist everywhere. Nothing to be seen but ghostly figures between ghostly trees and the glow of breakfast fires. It is very cold. We board the van and head for the Little Desert. We find the roads on the map inaccurate so the best we can do in the time we have is to explore a small patch of desert scrub left protruding into the encroaching farmland. The soil is sandy and the plants very woody as we expect, but what does surprise us is to see so many plants dead. The drought, no doubt, but there will be seeds for new plants just waiting for favourable conditions - in fact there are Murray pine seedlings everywhere already.

Finis. We finish the walk over pasture and some of us reap a large crop of mushrooms. A late lunch and then we are homeward bound after an interesting trip. Perhaps it is the most western expedition of the M.B.W.
-- I wonder.....

M.R.S.

ALONG THE TRACK

Birds and BOOS

One Saturday evening not so very long ago, ten utterly degraded souls gathered at Kallista hall, under the leadership of well known bird watcher Barry "Contour Lines" Short.

The reason for this great and noble gathering, in which even the newly-tied Sharpes participated, was the MBW event of the year - the Sherbrooke Forest lyrebird hunt.

After being subjected to hard floor boards, people putting butter on their porridge (primitives!) and Ed Lawton, we set out early on a freezing cold Sunday morning in the general direction of Sherbrooke Forest.

The tracks were muddy and slippery, and the author once again began cursing his gym boots (its the tread you know - they don't have one) Suddenly the inane chatter stopped - a lyre bird had been seen dead ahead (I quite realize that this statement is ambiguous, but you've got to work a few things out for yourself). There followed an example of mass stalking that would have done credit to General Custer himself, but the foolish bird saw us and with a final wave of its still-closed tail, disappeared into the forest.

After this little exercise had been repeated a few times, our leader decided to take firm action. Pivoting on his size 11 heel (Ed Lawton), which threw up enough dust to blind the rest of the party for life, he headed for the darkest patch of forest.

Not a sound, except for that hyena in the distance. Not a lyrebird either. A fraud, Mr. Short! Somebody started to ask the obvious question about where were all the precious birds, when the forest erupted underfoot. Lyrebirds all over the place and the chase was on. Some brilliant manoeuvring enabled us to surround one poor defenceless bird, and we went into operation - we watched it, we stared at it, we coaxed it with bread crumbs (shame!), we pleaded with it; but the bird wouldn't dance.

It finally ruffled a tail feather and a flash bulb exploded in the gloom. It moved every bit of two centimetres and another flash bulb bit the dust. (it had just about settled by now). Other birds were given the same treatment, but they refused to cooperate, and so one brilliant person suggested lunch, which broke up the proceedings completely.

The lyrebirds were left in peace and we continued on our way, eventually arriving back at the hall after an enjoyable walk along some of the many tracks in the area.

*****Michael Griffen

Continued from Page 5 of Walks Previews

Fare : \$3-85. - 2nd return to Trentham (this works out cheaper than buying singles)

Maps: Daylesford and Lancefield M.S. (1" to 1 mile)

Saturday - a long day (about 18 mls) Relatively easy walking through lightly forested country and along tracks. Will probably camp on Sardine Creek, but if the party is fast enough we will continue on to where Sardine Ck. joins the Lerderderg River.

Sunday - About 14 miles of medium walking. Route will be a bit flexible. If we reach the Lerderderg on Saturday, will contemplate a visit to Blackwood (Shaws Lake) There will probably be some scrub bashing and a side trip to Blue Mountain if time permits. Carry water for lunch.

August 30-1 DOM DOM SADDLE-MT VINEGAR-ACHERON WAY

THE KNOBS - WARBURTON. Medium-Hard

Leader: Tony Morris Van leaves Batman Av. 6.30pm

Fare : \$3-00. Map : Juliet Military.



WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS:

July 28

MT. STEWART-WAGGS RA.-CALLAN RA. Medium
Leader : Marion Siseman. Van leaves Batman Av. 9.15am
Fare \$1-70. Map: Tallarook 1" to 1 mile Military.
An interesting walk through open forested hills east of
Seymour. Views of Goulburn Valley. Arrive back 8pm.

August 4

MT. HOPE-EDWARDS HILL-WHEELERS HILL. Medium
Leader : Art Terry. Van leaves Batman Av. 9.15am.
Fare : \$1-70.

11

SNOW WALK: SNOWY HILL-LAKE MOUNTAIN-KEPPELS
FALLS-TALBOT DRIVE. H a r d.

Van leaves Batman Av. 9.15 am. Fare : \$1-80.

Oh! ... Leader : Michael Griffen...

Maps : Juliet E and Taggerty D (2" to 1 mile Lands. Dept)

The above route may possibly be changed, but the walk will
definitely centre around Lake Mountain. The final route

may be pretty much a last minute decision, depending in part upon :

1. The condition of the snow
2. The condition of the leader
3. The amount of pressure applied by skiing fanatics.
4. The size of the party.

Don't worry your pretty heads about such minor details-
just come. Remember that snow is wet, cold and exhausting,
so to prepared. (even the leader will be wearing decent
boots!) Thermos flasks of hot coffee or soup are strongly
recommended (Tourists!)

18

ELLIOTT FIREBRILL-CATHEDRAL RA. BUXTON. Med.

Leader : Rod Mattingley.

H a r d

Van leaves Batman Av. 9.15 am. Fare : \$1-80.

September 1

MT. BEENAK-SALES HILL-WOMBAT CREEK. Medium

Leader " Athol Schafer. Van leaves Batman Av.
9.15 am. Fare : \$1-70.

WEEKEND WALKS

July 20 - 21

CASTLEMAINE-FOGARTY'S GAP-EXPEDITION-PASS
RESERVOIR. M e d i u m

Leader : Fred Halls. Train leaves Spencer St. Stn 8.20am-
buy a 2nd return Castlemaine. Fare \$4-60. Maps:

Castlemaine and Bendigo M.S. 1" to 1 mile.

This is a good area for winter walking with its attractive
green hilly farmlands and dry open forests, hiding a
number of relics. With good view to Mt. Tarrangower
and Mt. Alexander.

N.B. Owing to the high cost of the fare the area of the walk has been
changed, from the ...

August 2 - 4

FRYERSTOWN TOWER-GLENLUCE SPRINGS, LODDON
FALLS. M e d i u m.

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

24-25

GISBOURNE-FRENCHMANS TRACT-SARDINE CREEK-
BLUE MOUNTAIN-TRENTHAM Medium.

Leader : (Not again) Michael Griffen

Train leaves Spencer St. Stn on Saturday at 8.20am (not
9.30 as shown in programme) and arrives in Gisborne
at 9.32am.

On Sunday, the train leaves Trentham at 7.06pm and arrives
back in Melbourne at 8.45pm.

Continued Page 4.....

WALK REPORTS :

To enable memberships application forms to be checked and to complete the proper club records, will those walk leaders who have not returned their walk reports and booking lists please give them back to the Walks Secretary, John Sparksman, as soon as possible, (or post to 4 Abbot St., Sandringham, 3191).

NEW MEMBERS :

WELCOME WELCOME WELCOME, TO OUR CLUB.....

Judith SHEGOG,

124 Beach Road, Parkdale, 3194. Phone (p) 90 2703.

CHECKING "WALK" TRACK NOTES:

People interesting in completing day and weekend walks as described in post "WALK"/yearly Melb. Bushie's magazine/Track notes, in order to bring them up to date. If you are writing or are in some way assisting with these notes, can you please hand them over to Athol Schafer when completed. These track notes are now needed, for the '69 Walk. Athol would appreciate any help that can be given towards this by those people who, as yet, are not working on these notes. Don't leave it for other people to do.....Also remember we want to make our Mag. Editor happy, sure he needs your help this time, don't forget him. Athol's phone no. is 211-2649.....

(ANOTHER CRY!) THE BOOKLET -GUIDE TO BUSHWALKING

We will be able to have the above available when the people who have taken some of the pages home, bring them back and return to John Brownlie. The sooner the better - whether the pages have been trimmed or not. This booklet is long overdue now to new members to make the bushwalking they do a safer and more pleasant event.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS :

At a recent monthly meeting two new Committee members were elected ..

Maria Verginis

and Michael Griffen (Good on you, Mike)

* * * * *

The "NEWS" of the Melbourne Bushwalkers
Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical

Rex, Mrs. Sue & Matthew Filson
18 Sutton Parade
Mont Albert 3129

If not claimed within 7 days please
return to HON. SEC. MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS
P.O. BOX 1751 G.P.O., 3001.
