

the news

Published by The Melbourne
Bushwalkers

Edition 234 September 1968 Price 3c.
Registered at G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical.

WILKINSON LODGE

Since becoming lodge manager in July 1967, I have kept a record of visits made to Wilkie between this time and July 1968. The figure surprised me a little - 47 visits by only 30 individuals - 26 members, 4 non members! This figure represents approximately 20% of club memberships, and even if doubled to 40%, it still does not seem very satisfactory. I am not inferring that we are losing financially by running the lodge - quite the reverse in fact. What I am getting at is - why don't more members make use of Wilkie?

Don't you have use for a comfortable dwelling in the idyllic bushwalking setting of the Bogong High Plains? Is this locality too far distant from Melbourne (250 miles)? Do the newer (and not so new) members amongst you even know of Wilkie's existence? Whatever the reason, I will clarify the latter one for the benefit of the unknowing.

We, the Melbourne Bushwalkers, own a lodge (Wilkinson Memorial Lodge) situated on the Bogong High Plains about 5 miles from Falls Creek. Comforts include hot shower; (briquette heater) septic tank; kitchen with cutlery, crockery, stove and sink; dining/living room; kerosene lighting; and attic type sleeping quarters. The surrounding country is typical alpine plains (the lodge itself is above 5000 feet) controlled by the S.E.C. who maintain strict control over the area because of its use as a catchment for the Kiewa hydro-electricity scheme. Due to its locality, Wilkie makes an ideal base for bushwalking trips at any other time than winter, when it is equally suitable for ski-touring trips.

Fees are very reasonable at 50 cents per night summer, 80 cents winter. Non-members pay double these fees. Any visitor or newcomer to the lodge must be accompanied by a member who has visited previously, mainly in order to locate Wilkie and partly to ensure safety in the operation of various utensils such as the water heater and kerosene lamps.

Now that you know what and where "Wilkie" is, how about more trips there to obtain full benefit from your club memberships? See me in the clubroom or phone 317-8306 to find out other details, arrange bookings and enquire whether trips are planned by others in the near future.

Tim Dent

P.S. Engagement parties, honeymoons, bucks turns' and dogs especially catered for!

U
O
P

R E U N I O N

U
O
P

Felix Harding is organising a second annual GET-TOGETHER for members and friends of YESTER YEAR on the last Saturday in October, so if you would like to be there - remember to

BRING, ? LUNCH, WIFE, CHILDREN ETC. - WHERE ? EMERALD LAKE
WHEN ? SATURDAY OCTOBER 26th - WHO ? BUSHIES YOUNG &
TRANSPORT ? Flinders St. train to Belgrave. Leaves Flinders --/ OLD.
St. 9.26 a.m. arrives Belgrave 10.50a.m.

"Along the Track"

WHERE THE HELL IS THE LERDERBERG ? (OR PADDLING WITH - MICHAEL)

Perhaps it was asking for trouble going on a week-end walk in the upper Lerderberg area led by Michael, who has a reputation for long and hard walks (which he obviously intends to keep). With his nine unsuspecting followers he set out from Gisbourne station, crossing the Calder Highway in a westerly direction through a number of paddocks. The first creek was carefully negotiated by rock hopping, but Jorgie Girl succeeded in falling in. We need not have taken such care to stay dry as the next hazard, the Macedon River, was wider, deeper and without helpful rocks, so it was a case of wading with or without boots.

After a mid-morning break of Gisbourne Creek a dirt road was followed in light but persistent showers until lunch which was taken at the Bullengarook - Woodend road junction. By late afternoon the showers had increased to a deluge, and a certain Pom was heard to complain he could not stand the climate and was considering returning to sunny England. After a long road bash along O'Brien's Road (formerly Frenchman's Track) Michael decided we should be just above the Lerderberg River, although the map only helped to confuse, and a steep descent brought us to a good campsite just above the river. The rain eventually ceased and after supper and a partial drying out an early retirement to bed was indicated.

Next morning as we scrub-bashed near the river it soon became evident that the Lerderberg jinx which seems to mislead all bushwalkers in this area had struck again - this was not the Lerderberg River after all but Sardine Creek. Anyhow we had to cross it, and by now we were so inured against the wet that we just walked straight through it. Climbing a steep spur we found a jeep track going north which this time tallied with the map. Some road, jeep track and light scrub took us across Clear Water and Yankee Creek, although navigation was difficult owing to new roads not being marked on the map and the original jeep tracks falling into disuse.

Eventually we reached the Blackwood - Trentham road which we followed into Trentham. Apart from newcomer Spyro who suffered agonies from blisters but gallantly completed the 34 miles, everyone agreed it was a week-end they would not have missed. Thanks again, Michael.

John Sparksman

FEATHERTOP TRIP 23/25 AUGUST

With a cry of "Nanga Parbat" a party of five intrepid "bushies" left the car park on the Feathertop track at the Alpine Start time of 9.15. "Well it's only quarter past midnight in the Alps now so we'll be pretty right".

The first snow was found just past Tobias Gap, rain had fallen during the night down below so we were expecting fresh snow higher up the mountain. We were not disappointed. The only fresh footprints were made by someone in langlauf boots in front of us, we met their owner returning to Harrierville a little higher up the track, he had spent rather a cold night near the old hut. Lunch was made in the old hut while outside the weather threatened to turn to a blizzard at any moment. The track up towards the Signpost proved very heavy going for the leader breaking the way, every step meant going kneep-deep in the fresh soft whiteness. After about three-quarters of an hour of this and with visibility practically non-existent we called a halt and quickly pitched camp. Snow fell heavily during the night and we awoke to find the tents heavily bulging inwards under the weight of fallen snow. Once again there wasn't the remotest chance of a view either from the top or anywhere else so a retreat down the mountain was decided on after breakfast once more breaking a fresh track through the foot or so of new snow that had fallen overnight. On the whole then, certainly a "snow weekend" as the programme predicted and rather a pity that more members did not join us on what was truly a change from the normal bushwalking weekend

--- NANGA PARBAT

WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS:

- September 22nd TALLAROOK-BREACH PEAK-DANIEL'S SWAMP. Medium
Leader : Margaret Reid. Train leaves Spencer St. Stn: 9.30a.m. Map : Tallarook Military 1:50.000
Walk distance is approximately ten miles and covers some beautiful country in the hills east of Tallarook. After crossing the Darbyrminga Creek, the walk continues to Breach Peak and Daniel's Swamp through an area strewn with large boulders - rather like the Mt. Buffalo area. Interesting aspects of the walk are some small waterfalls, and excellent views of Seymour and Puchapunyal. Train leaves Tallarook at 7-25 to return to Melbourne.
This walk will definitely not go to Meadow Hill, as was reported in last issue of "News".
- September 29 SCOTTIES GULLY-GOODMANS CREEK. Easy
Leader : Alan Phillips. Van leaves 9.15 am Batman Av. \$1-30
Map: Ballan 1" to 1 mile.
- September 26th SHOW DAY: MT.CHARLIE - Medium
Leader : Ed Lawton. Train leaves Spencer St. Stn 8.10 a.m. Buy a 2nd return Riddell Fare : \$1-65.
- October 6 FEDERAL MILL-LITTLE ADA RIVER-HIGH LEAD Medium
Leader : Dave Oldfield. Map: Neerim 1:50,000.
Van leave Batman Av. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1-70.
For details ring Dave telephone b) 31-7222 Ext 331.
- October 13 MOORABOOL FALLS-LAL LAL FALLS-BORHONEY GORK COM. Easy
Leader : Spencer George. Van leaves Batman Av. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1-80. "Ballan" 1" to 1 mile Map
- October 20 TRENTHAM NEWBURG-BLUI MT. Easy
Leader : Kel Wilson. Train leaves Spencer St. Stn 9.15 a.m. Buy a Sunday excursion Trentham. Fare \$2-15. Map: Daylesford 1" to 1 mile.
- October 27 YOU YANGS. Easy
Leader : George Hall. (b) 615-3470.
Van leaves Batman Av. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1-20. Map : "Meredith" Military.

WEEKEND WALKS:

- October 4-6 TRACK CLEARING WEEK-END -- ADA RIVER
Leader : Barry Short. p) 50-4843.
Van leaves Batman Av. 6.30 p.m. Fare \$2-60.
- October 18-20 BOTANY WEEK-END .. WARBY RANGE. Easy
Leader : Sue Taylor 397 6029. Van leaves Batman Av 6.30 p.m. Fare \$4-70 pleasant walk amid one of Victoria's loveliest wildflower areas.

-----Bring 1-gal water-----

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- September 27 ... Barry Short presents a slide night on his recent trip to the "Centre".
- November 30 ... Christmas Bar-b-que ... To be held at S. Taylor's there will be more details released by the Soc. Sec. next issue of "News".
- October 10 - A slide night on the "Story of Wilkie Lodge"
- September 20 - A stereo slide night.

THANK YOU to John Sparksman, Tim Dent, and NANGA PAREAT (?) for their articles. --- also to News assembling assistants....

NOTE: To Members: The News only survives when articles come flowing in and this issue gives you only Pages totalling four, if you want to read more, then try and help in some way, with others, in making it a fuller "Newsletter".....

CHRISTMAS WALKS 1968

CHRISTMAS is coming, and it is not too early to start thinking about Christmas walks. The following walks have been planned :-

THE BLUFF - MT.MAGDALA - WONNANGATTA - THE VIKING -
THE RAZOR - MT.HOWITT

Leader : ART TERRY Duration : 5 days p) 93 3617

LICOLA - LAKE TARLI KARNG - MOROKA RIVER - SNOWY BLUFF
WONNANGATTA STATION - MACALLISTER SPRINGS - MT. HOWITT
MT. STIRLING - MT. BULLER.

Leader : ED LAWTON Duration : 10 - 12 days

MT. COBBLER - MT.SPECULATION - CROSSCUT SAW - MT.
HOWITT - SNOWY PLAINS - DOOLANS PLAINS - MT. KENT -
PINNACLES - CASTLE HILL.

Leader : FELIX HARDING Duration : 12 - 14 days p) 97 5538

It is intended that food drops be arranged for the two longer walks.

If you are interested, the leaders concerned will be glad to give you
further details.

If anyone else is intending to lead a walk over the Christmas or
New Year period will you please contact the Walks Secretary
(John Sparksman).

Also any members wishing to visit Wilkinson Lodge over Christmas
should let Tim Dent know as soon as possible.

NEW MEMBERS :

The club welcomes

Kaye Karvanen,
98 Power Street, St. Albans, 3021. p) 67 7831.

Alan Bailey,
57 Surrey Road, South Yarra. p) 24 2183 b) 24 6416

and a few corrections to the membership list which was issued last month.

Financial Members as at 31.7.1968 not 31.1.1968.

John Sparksman, 4 Abbott St. Sandringham 3191. not 6.

Barry Short - new extension number - 63 0321 ext. 6813.

DUTY ROSTER:

October 4th -- Athol Schafer October 18 - Shirley Trotter
18 -- Charlie Welling 25th - Marion Siseman

LOCH WILSON & CO.

of 692 GLENHUNTLY ROAD,

SOUTH CAULFIELD (53 7353)

See Loch at the above address (or phone, write) for
all walking/climbing gear and garb. (ask for a price
list).....