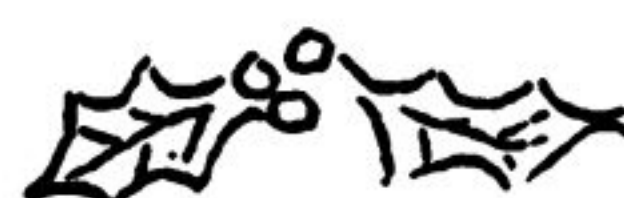




SEASONS GREETINGS

from
The Editor, Staff and all
members of the Committee.



THE NEWS

of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

Edition 249

November 1969

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

For the general information of those of us who are not fortunate enough to be partaking of either of the trips to the apple isle, Felix and Tyrone have been kind enough to write a brief general outline of their respective walks.

THE CRADLE MOUNTAIN RESERVE

This year we intend to approach the Reserve from the west: Starting from Guildford Junction, on the Emu Bay railway line, an old mining track crosses the headwaters of the Seven River and leads to a large, open plain. At dusk hundreds of wallabies may be observed here feeding on the luscious grass not far from an old mining camp. Mayday Mountain looks forbidding in the distance. Leaving these last signs of civilisation, we will head for the scrub, and in a few more hours will reach the beautiful Vale of Bellevoir.

Then on to Waldheim, the chalet at the northern end of the Reserve, and our first taste of snow. This park, aptly called a miniature Switzerland by some visitors, extends for some fifty miles to the south. There are numerous peaks, many within easy walking distance from the overland track. We intend to climb Cradle Mountain and some will doubtless climb Barn Bluff on the same day, weather permitting, as from their summits there is a view extending over almost the entire park. Interesting alpine flora is usually abundant and the track leads through many a beech forest, the copper coloured outer leaves of the beech contrasting with the dark green foliage and moss pervading most of the jungle-like forest.

Continued on Page 4

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Hon. Sec. Melbourne Bushwalkers,
Box 1751Q, G.P.O.,
MELBOURNE Victoria 3001

CLUBRCCMS

Meetings for the rest of December will be held in Room 110, 3rd Floor, V.R.I. Building, Flinders Street.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING
10.12.1969

Chairman: Alec Proudfoot

Present: Athol Schafer, Rex Filson, Michael Griffin, Jenny Mead,
Marion Siseman, Art Terry, Fred Halls, Rod. Mattingley,
Elizabeth Shaw, Tyrone Thomas, Shirley Trotter, Jan
Abbott, John Sparksman, Dorrie Warton.

Business arising from Minutes

New premises - Rex Filson is hopeful of a successful outcome of present negotiations in the near future.

Darrell Sullivan and Loch Wilson went to Stawell on 5th December to lecture and launch a walking club.

Walks Secretary

There has been an improvement on the numbers attending walks in 1969 compared with 1968 figures. There are three family walks scheduled on the new Walks Programme.

Social Secretary

The success of both the Christmas Party at Pocock's and the picture night was reported.

"NEWS"

To be printed in January.

Wilkinson Lodge

Last weekend a party of 11 visited Wilkinson and Cope Hut and had a successful and enjoyable weekend. The Lodge was found extremely tidy.

"Walk" Magazine

Athol asked that articles for Walk 71 be in by February.

There will be a "Walks" Sub Committee Meeting on 28th January at 18 Sutton Pde. Mont Albert (Rex Filson's home). All those interested please attend.

Equipment

A request was made by the Equipment Officer that people returning hired equipment see Rod. or his deputy.

National Parks

News of a proposed National Park in the alpine area of north east Victoria was given.

Track Clearing

A report by Art is to be presented to the Federation on the work done on the Ada River Valley track.

WALKS PREVIEWDAY WALKS:

January 11

MT. TOWRONG-CAMELS HUMP-MT. MACEDON-WOODEND

Leader: John Sparksman b) 62-5661 Medium

Map reference: Lancefield Military 1 inch

Train departs Spencer Street Station 9.30 a.m.

Expected time of return 8.45 p.m.

Two excellent viewpoints - Camels Hump and Mount Macedon Summit - are visited on this walk which is mostly along woodland tracks.

Buy Sunday excursion ticket to Woodend and alight at Macedon.

18 CAPE SCHANCK-BURRALUNG BAY-FLINDERS (Swimming)

Leader: Andy Price Easy

Map reference: Sorrento and Westernport Military 1 inch

Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare: 1.80

This walk will take you along the coast all the way, starting from the rocky headland of Cape Schanck. Ample time for swimming. This trip is suitable as a "family walk" of 3 or 4 miles, especially for parents with young children.

26 FRANKSTON-CANADIAN BAY (Swimming)

Leader: Athol Schafer p) 211-2649 b) 67-4445

Map reference: Broadbent's Card No. 166 Easy

Catch first train after 9.00 a.m., ticket return Frankston. Fare 0.89

Bring bathers and lunch. If the tide permits, we will call in on the Davey Bay Annual Regatta on our way home. Return City approximately 7.00 p.m.

WEEKEND WALKS

January

23-26

BINDAREE HUT-THE BLUFF-MACALISTER SPRINGS-HOWITT SPUR Medium/Hard

Leader: Art Terry p) 93-3617

Map reference: Watersheds of King, Howqua and Jamieson (V.M.T.C.)

Van leaves Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m. Fare \$6.00

This is a beautiful and exhilarating walk taking in the upper reaches of the Howqua River to the mountain tops including "The Bluff", Mt. Magdala, Hells Window, Mt. Howitt. Camp 1 is near Bindaree Hut, Camp 2 at Bluff Hut and Camp 3 at McAlister Springs. A side trip without packs to Mt. Buggery via "The Crosscut" should be possible on Monday before we go up and over Howitt and then down to the refreshing Howqua River via the Howitt Spur.

WOOLLYBUTT SADDLE-MT. STIRLING-MONUMENT HILL-CLEAR HILLS Dead Easy

Leader: Tyrone Thomas p) 89-5197

Map reference: Buller Lands Dept. 1:50,000

Van leaves Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m. Fare \$6.00

Includes one full day's fixed camp in the snowgums. An ideal alpine introductory trip for new members and those wanting a pleasant three days amid the snowgums.

This walk will be from Woollybutt Saddle over Mt. Stirling, Clear Hills saddle (5 miles) where a fixed camp will be established.

The second day will be free with nothing organised - feel free to do as you please - perhaps a bludge. The third day we will walk to King Saddle and the van nearby, a distance of 5 miles passing through very nice alpine scenery. Tyrone guarantees it will be a bludge this time.

Cradle Mountain Reserve (Contd.)

By rising early, we hope to arrive at the various huts of the park before other walkers, ensuring a dry bed for the night. Our packs will hang from ropes fastened to the beams in order to foil "Pete, The Possum & Co.", whose relatives are ever intent on sharing our precious rations.

Another peak to climb will be Mt. Ossa, Tasmania's highest mountain, from where Macquarie Harbour is clearly visible on a fine day. A slide on our groundsheets down one of the snow-covered slopes of this mountain should be fun.

Thundering Boulder, Dalton and Fergusson Falls will be a highlight of the trip. The shutters of the cameras seem never to stop here despite the foam and spray that dampens all but the spirit of the enthusiast trying to capture the Falls' wild beauty on film. Impressive views of Mt. Geryon and The Parthenon should be obtained not far from Pine Valley and Mt. Gould.

Half a day's journey from Narcissus Hut lies idyllic Lake Petrarch. Looking westward across this lake from a sandy beach, the mountains, partly snow-clad, sweep down as if to frame the picture.

At the southern end of the park we will have a rest day or alternatively, visit Mt. Rufus and Hugel Lake. Next day, after replenishing our supplies with eight more days' food, a luxury launch will take us across scenic Lake St. Clair and back to Narcissus Hut. We will then revisit Fergusson Falls and cross the Mersey River just below the falls on a natural stone bridge.

Gradually the beech forest gives way to the pretty Pencil Pine growing profusely on the shores of many lakes. A few years ago a platypus was spotted in one of these. The next point of interest will be Mt. Jerusalem from whose summit literally hundred of lakes can be seen as well as many of the peaks of the Reserve. Then on to Ironstone Mountain and the end of our journey will be in sight.

A steep descent from the Western Tears, where we will expect to meet John Siseman's party on its way into the Walls of Jerusalem, to Western Creek, Launceston and home, will conclude the trip.

FREYCINET PENINSULA - NEW YEAR 1970

New Year 1970 is meant to go off with a real roar for eighteen Freycinet walkers!

I intend organising a New Year eve's celebration with a difference to be celebrated immediately on arrival in the apple isle.

We leave Melbourne by air at 6.20 p.m. and fly to Launceston where three hired Falcons will be waiting to drive bush (for a night's entertainment).

Next morning should see us all anxious to rise and get going to Tasmania's equivalent of our "Prom." - arrival at Freycinet should be about midday and the afternoon will be spent relaxing, swimming and exploring Coles Bay.

Continued on Page 6

The following letter is printed, not only as a reply to Sue Filson's letter, but also so that the election, next March, of Club Office Bearers is kept in the minds of ALL members.

The Editor,

Dear Madam,

I wish to attempt a reply to Sue Filson's stirring letter which appeared in last month's issue of the "NEWS". While agreeing idealistically (summoning up all my patriotic fervour) with the sentiments expressed, I wish to disagree from the viewpoint of honesty.

Firstly, people join the Club (usually) to walk and to socialise. Very few would have in mind such grand ideals as labouring for the common good etc., at least initially - a process of indoctrination is necessary to inculcate such values. Of the many who join, a handful begin after a time to be troubled by an inner urge which seems to push them towards involvement; they want to know what goes on, and more importantly, they want to have a say in what goes on. Such people join Committees. I am one of them. They must, I feel, admit self-interest. Undoubtedly they "do all the work", but they do it as much for themselves as for the Club. When self-interest fails them, they leave the Committee. I am almost one of them.

Some unfortunate people (a very few) join the Committee - and/or do the work - because they have been coerced and inveigled into it. I find it hard to believe however, that self-interest is entirely lacking. If it is, Griffin's law predicts that they will not survive the next general election.

The point is that the necessary handful of drones is always available - the selection may sometimes lack zing, but the Club manages to survive, and even to prosper. Finally, if the majority of the handful become slack (failing to attend meetings, saying such nasty things as "no report" when called upon to speak, or just sitting still and saying nothing - which makes things easier for power groups) the three or four backbone members of the Club sweep into action and save the day, taking on more work, fuming, complaining and writing letters.

Don't get me wrong - I stand in awe of such people, and am the first to praise them: but I have the sneaking suspicion that they ENJOY what they do - which is commendable. Perhaps, in an odd moment, I have been one myself.

The conclusion is obvious; while there are a few willing horses, the work will get done, and everyone will wonder what on earth Sue is carrying on about. If they really want to protest, the horses should go out to pasture for a while (which is against their nature) and let the Club tumble in ruins all around. Furthermore, while the Committee remains a closed institution, for the elected elite, there is only one-way spying; non-Committee members simply do not know what goes on. As long as they don't want to know, the system chugs along quite happily. Their "apathy" is deplorable (so it seems), but the system can accommodate it.

What is "apathy" anyway. First, it is a value judgement, and its value as a judgement is questionable. Second, it may in part be result, rather than cause, of non-involvement. Third, is it largely irrelevant to the running of the Club. Members have the right to be apathetic. The work still gets done.

Continued on Page 6

Sue has raised some specific questions. As she is asking the Club as a whole, let me answer in the same way, probably incorrectly:

- (i) Most members probably do not consciously give equipment, Wilkie etc. any thought at all. But the question is a little strong, and doesn't necessarily follow from the fact that some people don't attend meetings. Anyway, what do we elect lodge managers, equipment officers etc. for, if not to care?
- (ii) Many members couldn't care a fig about our affiliations. Hands up all those who know what our affiliations are? I fail.
- (iii) If people don't want to come to meetings, that is their business. It probably indicates that the necessary stimulation is lacking.
- (iv) Don't worry about the annual elections. The "people who are willing to work conscientiously for the best interest of the Club" will be the only ones standing!

Perhaps it is about time somebody gave three cheers for selfishness. We might then clear away a bit of the hypocrisy. And two last points!

- (a) I admit that this letter represents a shift in my viewpoint.
- (b) Perhaps a good measure of degree of involvement would be the extent to which people take this letter seriously.

Yours

(Signed)

Michael Griffin

Freycinet Peninsula (Continued.)

The second day we will walk along the coast to Cooks Beach via Hazards Beach and make an early camp to enable more relaxation swimming and exploring. A moonlight stroll to Bryans Beach and return has been suggested. Trouble is there will be seven boys and eleven girls ... the boys should have a good time!

The third day will be a bit harder as we intend walking four miles for the day to Wineglass Bay via 1,950' Mt. Graham, which should provide spectacular views. A side trip to Mt. Freycinet will be included as an extra at lunchtime for those wishing to climb an extra 64 feet.

The final day will be spent walking over to Coles Bay and driving "tourist style" to Licheno and the east coast beaches, then on to Launceston for the return flight to Melbourne.

Some will be staying on for an extra few days to see other parts of Tasmania - lucky people.



SUE'S SNIPPETS

The word for this month is Axe.

Another boy! I told you it was that time of the year. David, born to Ann and Ian (ex WALK Distributor) Phillips, born 26th November. Hope we see you all out on the family walks next year.

A brand spanking new Valiant for \$2!! Would you believe it? The Sharps,, Ken and Sandra paid just that amount to hit the jackpot in a raffle. There were rumblings when the roof fell in.

The Hespes had to pay a trifle more than that for their Land Rover. Last month's "NEWS" was a bit out of date as they had already acquired their vehicle for the intrepid trip next year.

Whilst all you energetic people were gallivanting around The Prom. Darrell and Ann acquired the same surname. Unfortunately I am not able to report that they have joined the Eastern Suburbs Association (you thought that meant a bank, didn't you?) as they are living in Ormond. Best of luck to you both.

The Rolling Brownlies (distinct from Stones) are moving from their cosy spot in Mt. Isa. Next stop the Alice. You Algonia bods had better finish that map pronto - they may lose their way.

Well, the 1970 edition of WALK has appeared on the news-stands. The Editor and his staff are to be congratulated on one of the best issues ever. It's still one of the best (if not the best) magazines to be produced by a similar organisation. Let's hope the sales figures justify all the time and effort which went into this edition.

Considering the difficulties which beset it, the Christmas Party was a great success (judging by the looks of some people the next day). Everyone who went, the Sociable Oldies, thoroughly enjoyed themselves and looked askance at the Stay-at-home Newies. Alas, gone forever are the days of door unhinging and telephone book tearing. The Staid Bushies have come to stay.

Art Terry recently received a letter from Maria Verginis on her way home. She joined the Sundowners bus which left Athens on 7th October and was due to arrive in Calcutta about the end of November. From Calcutta she will be flying either to Bangkok or Rangoon (she is not sure which) and then training it to Singapore, flying to Darwin and bussing it the rest of the way. She is finding the trip fascinating - has been to more places than the bloke in the song "I've Been Everywhere" - and Art expects that we will see her again before Christmas.



ALONG THE TRACK

BREAK O'DAY TO DEVLIN'S BRIDGE

Leader - Tyrone Thomas

9.15 a.m. on the morning of Sunday 19th October saw a swarm of multi-hued Bushies hover around Batman Avenue for a few minutes; and then continue their animated buzzing inside the green hive that is Gronow's van. Even it has an air of anticipation as it lurches off, neatly missing the opposition's vehicle.

Two and one-half hours later, our big green hive is still groaning slowly towards Flowerdale. Art keeps encouraging the dejected faces and squirming bodies around him by saying "Just over this hill folks". Strange - 9 miles later he's still saying it.

At last we're there, and its "Break o'Day (for all you leprechauns) - lush, green, rolling country with vague, velvety-purple hills on the horizon. Eagerly we make our way over the first barbed wire unmentionable object only to be met by the uncivilized growl of a motor-bike straddled by a very "with it" farmer owning a bull. We hastily agree not to stop and chat with the ferocious one even if he is colour-blind.

Another five hundred yards and it's lunch time. Gratefully we fling ourselves down on the long soft grass, and dig into our packs for hidden delicacies (squashed).

The sun is soothing and strong, and I put on my special rose-coloured glasses that enable me to view animals seldom seen by most people. Behold - next to me sits an alert rabbit happily chewing on grated carrot, parsley and soya beans! Remarkable, and his nose is getting pinker.

At length, packs almost empty and hunger appeased, we stumble drowsily to our feet and set off once again, keeping to the high ridges. (21 of them to get lost on, so stay together warns the leader.)

It seems a shame to trample the lovely wildflowers blooming so profusely under our feet. I enquire as to their identity, and am very impressed when Tyrone, without a moment's hesitation, tells me they are "Little Yellow Flowers"!

Onward we march with that long-awaited sunshine hot on our faces. The pace is moderate, so conversation does not lag. The stock market is covered thoroughly, as is gym boots versus other boots, dehyds. versus tins, the relative merits of various hills (with discarding VWs in mind) and other satisfying topics.

Aha - a large hill to descend, and another animal in view - a prancing shetland pony tossing its lovely black forelock out of its eyes - and its even wearing a red 'Featherlite' rucksack, how clever! Oh, look, here come some more animals. Two lambs gambolling together ecstatically - hand in hand? And what's that in the distance - a clydesdale, striding determinedly,

Continued on Page 9

Break O'Day to Devlin's Bridge (Contd.)

a khaki cap with badges on its head. I'm glad Ty. has suggested a rest. This Australian fauna is overwhelming.

After 7½ rewarding miles, the road is in sight and the sun has mellowed to that unique twilight softness. Two gazelles (wearing blue shorts) streak by, breaking the spell momentarily. The two graceful, long-limbed giraffes behind me don't seem to notice, but drift on dreamily together. Odd - the larger one seems to have a beard.

Apart from two playful porpoises splashing in the river below Devlin's Bridge, and six leaping grey kangaroos, I saw no more animals that day, although there were reports of a red-hatted monkey.

A great walk Tyrone, and one bound to make most of those visitors turn into members.

For those of you who missed this walk, here-under is animal identification -

alert rabbit	Art
prancing shetland pony	Sue
two lambs	Jenny and Mario
clydesdale	Roger
gazelles	Art and Andy
graceful giraffes	Jan and Jonn
playful porpoises	Mario and Andy
six grey kangaroos	played by themselves
red-hatted monkey	???

Joan Gibbons

ATHOL'S CUP DAY RAMBLE IN THE DANDENONG RANGES

Old Sol was up bright and early on Cup Day and so added to the pleasure of 18 Bushies who started walking from Upper Ferntree Gully through the bush with its colourful display of wildflowers and flowering shrubs - Tyrone observed 13 varieties of wildflowers within a distance of a few hundred yards. We also had the pleasure of having the company of a marvellous young-old lady, Blanche Lamont. I say young-old, because Blanche is biologically young and chronologically old. I will let you guess her age as I write a few more lines about Athol's walk.

Out lunch spot was on the top of One Tree Hill. This is quite a climb from "The Gully" and as we stopped for a breather half way up, Blanche said she would keep on walking as she was a bit on the slow side, but was in no need of a rest.

After having lunch on a nice grassy spot, we continued on our way, first down and then up, the brooms all in flower making a colourful display. As the running time of the Cup approached, Neil Ham produced a portable radio (no doubt allowable on such an occasion) and Athol declared a 10 minute break, but no luck for any of us.

It was nice to have Neil and Pat, his wife to be, out with us. It was good also to see Ray O'Donnell and we hope you can talk Shirley into coming out with us in the near future. Jan Abbott's beach walk should suit you Shirl. you could always cool off in the sea.

Continued on Page 10

Athol's Cup Day Ramble (Contd.)

After emerging from the bush and seeing some beautiful specimens of the New South Wales waratahs, we entered the Sherbrooke Forest and slithered and skidded our way to Belgrave.

This was a most enjoyable walk of medium grade over a distance of 10 or 11 miles and would be considered by most folks to be quite long and hard enough. You could say it would be quite tough for a person of 65 to 75 years of age - well Blanche, at 82, did it in great style and was an inspiration to all of us. We enjoyed having you with us Blanche, and we hope Betna will bring you out with us on future suitable walks.

Thanks for a pleasant outing Athol.

Art Terry

JOG-IN by Mike Agostini MGA, Sydney 1969 \$1.00

Keeping fit between walks has its problems, especially if one gets out only infrequently. Jogging is the easiest and cheapest method of attaining fitness. It is an efficient means of stimulating circulation and exercising the heart and lungs, as well as every other part of the body. Age is no barrier, for one jogs at one's own pace, anywhere, anytime, but preferably everyday. It is more of a walk than a run. This is explained simply in a small folder entitled "Jog Along to Health" and put out by the National Heart Foundation.

Now Mike Agostini has written a 96 page book on the subject in which he discusses many more aspects of the exercise. Tables suggested run/jog/walk schedules for beginners and a comprehensive food-calory list.

Nothing new. Back in 1610 William Shakespeare wrote:

"Jog on, jog on, the footpath way ..."

(For the rest of the quotation see "The Winter's Tale" Act IV, Scene 1)

Athol Schafer

The "MELBOURNE WALKER" for 1970 is available now. See Athol Schafer for a copy. The price is 30c.

<u>NOTE</u>	<u>NOTE</u>	<u>NOTE</u>
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January's issue of "NEWS" will contain information about our new Clubrooms.

<u>NOTE</u>	<u>NOTE</u>	<u>NOTE</u>
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TRACK CLEARING

Saturday 29th November

Chocolate cake and coffee all round by Dorrie put ten track clearing bushies into a happy frame of mind to tackle the mountain drizzle, leeches and a job of scrub slashing. Dorrie even had enough cake left over to provide us with a slice each for afternoon tea - you guessed it, our chocolate cake eating expert was not with us on this occasion.

Three new recruits, namely Pam Collinson, Dave Oldfield and Dean Rowley joined the staff and assisted us greatly. Roger Brown, Dorrie Warton, Alce Proudfoot, Peter Bullard, Peter Johns, Alan Miller and myself were the other members of the work party.

We cleared the remaining one and a half miles and in so doing, opened the tramway for pleasant walking from Starlings Gap to the Ada River road via Little Ada River; and from The Gap to the foot of the "High Lead" via the Ada River. The section along Big Creek to the Noojee-Powelltown road still needs attention.

Again I thank the above mentioned people for their support and effort in clearing the tramway, and a special thanks to the car owners for providing transport for the work party. An extra thank you to Dorrie from the nine of us for that delicious cake.

A few facts on the four days of track clearing:

Twenty four people (including six women) participated

7 persons attended for 1 day 7

6 persons attended for 2 days - 12

7 persons attended for 3 days - 21

4 persons attended for 4 days - 16

—
56 man/days

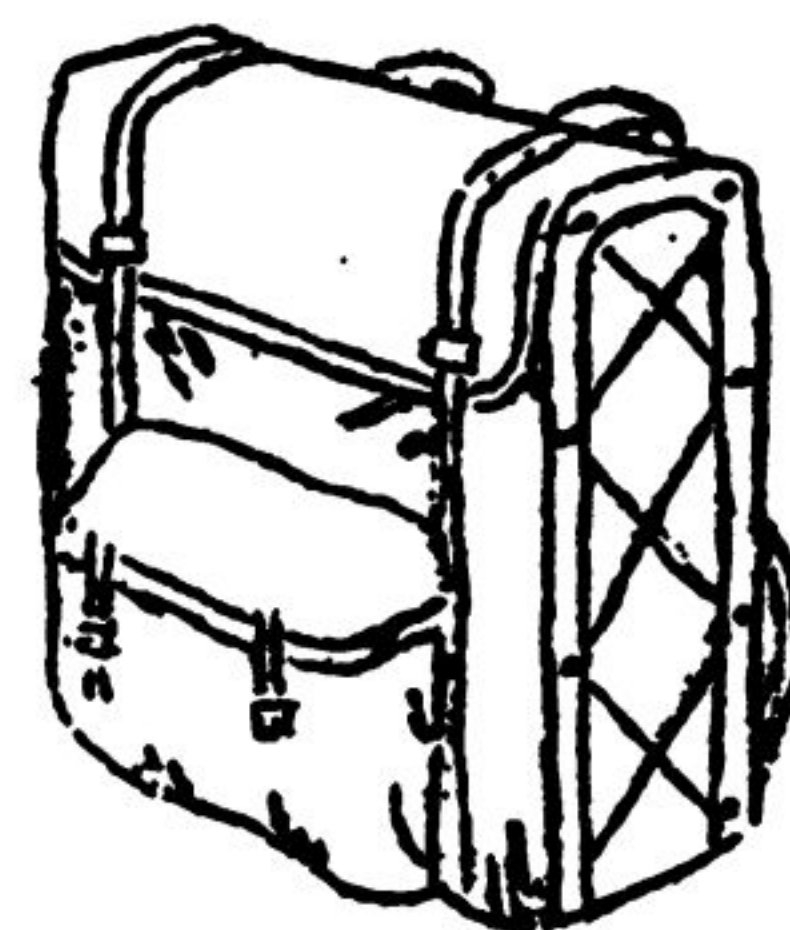
A total work force of 56 man/days or 448 man/hours resulting in 8 miles of cleared track.

Art Terry

AUSKI

9 Hardware St.
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The Bushwalking Specialist
Paddymade equipment, Packs, etc.



Listed hereunder are the details of the Club contacts during the Christmas/New Year period.

Would all those going on Club walks during this period, leave these details with those at home.

24/12/69 to 1/1/1970 - Marion and John Siseman
p) 878-1839

1/1/70 to 15/1/1970 - Sue and Rex Filson
p) 88-1165

STOP PRESS:

Sue and John Brownlie, as from 12th December until early 1970, will be located 300 miles north east of Alice Springs at Hatches Creek Wolfram Mine. Their address will be c/o The Northern Territory Minerals, Private Mail Bag 37, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, 5750.

The story of how this came to pass is well worth repeating. Sue was outside one of the hotels in Mt. Isa when she was asked by a total stranger if she knew of any girl who wanted \$100 a week for doing some cooking. Sue reported back to John who said she could accept, provided there was a job for him too.

The arrangement is now that they will be living in an air conditioned caravan, will receive full keep (no charge), Sue will be cooking and receiving \$100 p.w. and John will receive \$1.60 p.h. six days per week and possibly 7 days sometimes. There are six other married couples and thirty single men at the Mine.

The "Old Lady" has been boarded in Mt. Isa and the Brownlies are flying to their new position. On their return, they will drive into Alice Springs.

Some people are lucky! I can see all the single females in the Club polishing up their cooking skills and doing a Sue act outside hotels.

Back to more mundane things - Glenda Alexander has passed her examinations and Michael Griffin's results so far are good - an honour.

Notwithstanding the outcome of the present Clubroom negotiations, meetings will continue to be held in Room 110, V.R.I. Building at least until the next issue of "NEWS".

Your "NEWS" Convenor wishes to thank all contributors to "NEWS" during 1969 and trusts that readers are preparing themselves for a productive year of writing items for "NEWS" in 1970.

LOCH WILSON

692 Glenhuntly Rd.
Caulfield

For all

Bushwalking Equipment,

Climbing gear, Shirts, Pullovers, Sleeping bags.

