

THE NEWS

Published by the Melbourne Bushwalkers.
of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

Edition 248

November, 1969

Price 3c.

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

ARE YOU WANTING

- An EXPEDITION BASE (for walking or skiing)
- HCNEYMCCN COTTAGE (for you know what)
- REST HOME (to revive in the fresh mountain air)
- WHITE CHRISTMAS (if you're lucky)
- GOOD TIME (you do deserve it)

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THE LODGE BELONGS TO YOU .. WHAT ABOUT VISITING IT

All correspondence should be addressed to:

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

CLUBROOMS

Meetings will be held in Room 110, 3rd Floor, V.R.I. Building, Flinders Street for the rest of this month (November) except on the night of the 28th (November) when the venue will be Room 56.

Meetings on nights of December 5, 12, 19 will be held in Room 110.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING
12.11.1969

Chairman: Alec Proudfoot

Present: Jenny Mead, Athol Schafer, Fred Halls, Tyrone Thomas, Art Terry, Liz Shaw, Michael Griffin, Rex Filson, Shirley Trotter, Dorothy Warton.

Apologies: Jan Abbot, John Sparksman

Rex reported that negotiations to obtain new Club rooms were still unsuccessful.

Correspondence

A letter has been received from the National Fitness Council of Victoria giving details of training courses in outdoor activities. These courses will be conducted in 1970 and will cover Canoeing, Bushwalking and Light-weight Camping and Skiing and Snow Safety.

The closing date for applications is Monday December 8. Further details can be obtained from Jenny Mead.

Treasurer's Report

The Club's finances are sound.

Walks Secretary

The deficit on the vans is reduced this month. It is necessary to cancel Doug Crocker's walk on 7th December but Athol has agreed to lead one in place of it. The day walk for 23rd November has been cancelled.

Social Secretary

Three social events have been planned for the rest of 1969 and details of these are on Page 10

"Walk" Magazine

"Walk" is to be released at the end of this month.

Equipment

All equipment is now stored in Room 110 and is available to members on request.

Search and Rescue

Fred Halls reported on the recent aircraft search when a definite area was allocated to bush-walkers.

Continued on Page 3

Minutes of Committee Meeting (Contd.)

Track Clearing

Art reported a very successful work day on 1st November. The next track clearing party is scheduled for 29th November. Those interested should contact Art.

Roster:

November:	21	-	Rex Filson
	28	-	Michael Griffin
December:	5	-	Art Terry
	12	-	Fred Halls
	19	-	Jan Abbott
	26	-	No meeting
January:	2	-	Art Terry

WALK WITH A DIFFERENCE

Meals served a la Carte

Five Bushies and two dogs joined the Kilmore Historical Society on Saturday 14th November to walk 15 miles along the old trainline from Kilmore to Lancefield.

The day was fine and the countryside lush with high grass. Yvonne, as usual, was in trouble, breaking one barbed wire fence and negotiating with difficulty seven creeks, though only one succeeded in claiming her.

The Kilmore ladies acted as hostesses at morning tea and lunch. The latter was a sumptuous barbeque complete with delicious salad and only marred when Alec disgraced us by blowing his nose on a pink serviette.

After much rabbiting, dogs and walkers completed the tramp at Lancefield where again we were met by the ladies, again with food, and much appreciated were the excellent home cookies which were served.

Those who stayed home missed a treat!

Dorrie Warton

FCR SALE - Practically new equipment

- 1 Flinders Ranges light-weight medium pack (Venturer)
- 1 Large flannelette sleeping sheet
- 1 Large superdown Hotham sleeping bag (de luxe, Paddy-made)
- 2 Tent-poles
- 3 Billies
- 1 Cape ground-sheet (heavy quality)
- 1 Silva compass No. 3

All enquiries to Trudy Jaeger 97 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton,
p) 25-5887
b) 42-0281/64

WALKS PREVIEWDAY WALKS:DECEMBER 7KILMORE EAST-DRY CREEK-WALLAN

Leader: Athol Schafer p) 211-2649 Medium

Map reference: Lancefield and Kinglake Army

Train departs Spencer Street Station 9.30 a.m.

Returns City by 9.00 p.m.

This walk has been arranged to replace the walk which was to have been led by Doug Crocker.

Ticket Excursion to Kilmore East \$1.75

14 TARRAWARRA-VIEW HILL-SCHOOLHOUSE RIDGE-
HEALESVILLE

Easy/Medium

Leader: Graham Mascas

Map reference: Yarra Yean Military 1"

Train departs Flinders Street Station 9.40 a.m.

Return to City approximately 8.15 p.m.

Ticket Sunday Excursion to Healesville (change at Lilydale)

A popular walk, partly open paddocks and partly woodland, with good views over the Yarra valley.

21 BELLS BEACH-POINT ADDIS-ANGLESEA

Leader: Janice Abbott

Easy

Map reference: Anglesea Military 1"

Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.90

Expected time of return 8.00 p.m.

This walk from Bells Beach to Anglesea is almost all along the beach - one of the best surf beaches in Victoria.

Guaranteed opportunities for two or three swims and two hours for lunch. Especially suitable for those with pre-Christmas hangovers. Bring water for lunch.

WEEKEND WALKS:DECEMBER
5-7WILKINSON LODGE

This weekend is already booked out but for those who wished to know a little about Wilkinson Lodge an article on the front page of this month's "NEWS" should have answered at least some of the questions. Further information regarding Wilkinson Lodge can be obtained from Marion Siseman 878-1839.

DECEMBER
12-14WATERLOO BAY (Swimming)-SEALERS COVE-REFUGE COVE-
KERSOPS PEAK-WATERLOO BAY-MOUNT VEREKER

Map reference: Army 1" = 1 mile Wilsons Prom. and Yanakie

Van leaves Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m. Fare \$5

The leader of the easy trip to Waterloo Bay is Dorothy Warton and she guarantees an excellent trip with swimming at its best and chocolate cake for all comers.

Waterloo Bay is a must for all who have not seen it to date and even those who have already been there will want to miss seeing it again.

The medium trip taking in Waterloo Bay and also many other extremely beautiful spots is to be led by Art Terry. Art intends going to Sealers Cove with its gorgeous curved beach then to Refuge Cove and Kersops Peak for spectacular views and on to Waterloo Bay, before returning to Tidal River.

In addition, a harder trip led by Michael Griffin will tackle Mt. Vereker.

Continued on Page 5

Walks Preview (Contd.)

DECEMBER
12-14

MT. VEREKER

A walk south along the Vereker range, finishing (probably) at Windy Saddle. Can't promise much in the way of swimming, but the severity of the trip will be inversely proportional to the temperature. Simply, if it boils, Vereker range will remain unconquered.

Promises: A modicum of scrub, excellent views of the Prom. and a reasonably hard trip. For the fit and adventurous. Bring a water bottle and togs if you are optimistic or expecting a heat wave. Remember that the leader is inherently lazy and doesn't like doing the impossible. Sanity will prevail!

All round our "virtually" annual trip to the Prom. appears to be shaping into an unforgettable weekend. - come along - see if we can fill two vans this trip. As the saying goes .. "the more the merrier", and what better place for a real annual get-together of all Club members than the Prom.

The following letter was received by the Committee. Sue Filson, the writer, asked that a copy be included in "NEWS".

Dear Dorrie,

It is about time that some of our members, particularly committee members, did some soul-searching. I know that at present we are experiencing difficult times in the fact that we do not have a permanent meeting place. However this does not really account for the lack of interest in Club affairs.

The Half-Yearly General Meeting and the last Bi-Monthly Meeting for the year have passed. It is quite extraordinary that they have passed without notice by a few committee members, who forgetting to submit reports even overlooked sending an apology. Although our Club may not have a large membership quite big sums of money pass through the Club's books. Is it that members do not care what happens to equipment, Wilkinson Lodge, social arrangements or track clearing? Is it that members are not interested in organisations to which we are affiliated? (We do have to pay fees for this pleasure.) Surely the already over-worked secretary does not have to run around and remind people to come to meetings when they are advertised well in advance.

I do realise that in any organisation the work load is always carried by a few willing horses, but please, please, could not the M.B.W. be different and make it a good strong team.

As the annual Election for Office Bearers is held in March, we should all consider, the positions that have to be filled, and people who are willing to work conscientiously for the best interest of the Club.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Filson

SUE'S SNIPPETS

The word for this month is Triangle.

Examination fever is upon us once more, as can be seen by the absence of many regular faces. We wish you all the best of luck in trying (?) to pass.

Has Hans found himself other interests?

Colin Crocker, the latest Bushie to be captured by the National Service Officers, is in training at Puckapunyal. As he is at home most weekends, we hope to see him in at the Club and on a few walks.

It is the season for the newborn. Welcome Barbara Jane Margaret, newest addition to the household of Margaret and Bill Thompson. What a pity the Mitchells are not on the 'phone. Wouldn't the Filsons get their own back!! A very, very incoherent message announced the arrival of Peter James, born Armistice Day. No holding back the Mitch. now. Welcome to the minority group Helen.

Glad to see Glenda Alexander, plus wooden legs, very heroically visiting the Clubrooms once more.

Many stories are told about the chap of 27 who was too old for walking. I wonder what he would say to Eetna Dryden's Californian friend Blanche Lamont (Athol's Cup Day Derby) who is still enjoying this past-time at 82 years of age. I bet your face is red when you learn that Blanche is accompanying Betna on the Ausventure (leader Paddy Pallin) Safari to Nepal next year.

News of an ex-member, John Richards, who has recently returned from a honeymoon at Wilson's Prom. Hope the good wife is able to keep him off Mt. Feathertop.

I believe that Neil Ham and his fiancée are embarking on the joys of married life in February.

Club Contacts Sue and Graham Errey have just returned from a holiday in New South Wales and report that Anne and Charlie Weiling are coping splendidly with John. The Weilings would love to see any Club members who are visiting Sydney. (One way of getting good accommodation and maybe a free meal.)

Geoff Kenafacke writes that he will be sailing for home on the "SUNTAN AND SEASICK" Liner H.M.A.S. Sydney on 28th November. It will be good to see you again Geoff. (All members who come to the Clubrooms PLEASE see the noticeboard for "Advice on Rehabilitation of a Soldier". Too lengthy for inclusion in "NEWS".

Jeff Sill is home for three months before he is off again, this time to Canada. Jeff reports that he visited Margaret Grey in Bangkok but lack of time prevented him from contacting the Brays in Singapore. He visited several countries in Asia including Indonesia.

Hoping to join the Safari Brownlies are Dave and Barb. Hespe who, early next year, intend buying a four wheel drive vehicle (Land Rover of course), and setting off on a wander around Australia.



ALONG THE TRACK

THE BATTLE OF THE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

On Friday 19th September, at approximately 6.30 p.m., a van made its lumbering way out of Batman Avenue and turned its stubby nose in the direction of Lakes National Park.

On its arrival at its destination, the "Bushies" who were present set up camp in one of the local typhoons. (Why is it that the elements are always against us as we attempt to set up camp on Friday nights?)

At some ridiculous hour in the morning, I was awakened by a loud buzzing in my ears. I was just about to abuse Geoff for bringing an alarm clock with him, when I realised that it was only a mosquito. ONLY A MOSQUITO!! It had a wing span of about 2" and I found later that it was only a baby!

After the usual morning confusion, we set off. About six miles and two million mosquitoes later, we climbed our first (and last) hill to observe an eagle's nest. It was complete with eaglets (?) and our illustrious leader advanced on the nest to obtain a photograph of its occupants. We were expecting, at any moment, to see Barry disappearing over the tree tops in the talons of an enormous (and very angry) mummy eagle.

We battled our way onwards, not through bush as might be expected, but through clouds of mossies. The kangaroos in this area have very thick hides - this is the only attribute that saves them from dying from loss of blood.

We camped for Saturday night at Point Wilson and after the usual pleasant fireside evening, the slightly anaemic walkers crawled into their sleeping bags to spend a fitful night, still battling the foe.

By morning tea break on Sunday, our meagre supplies of insect repellent were almost exhausted and some other method had to be devised to stop the parasitic hordes. The most successful was a hard left hook to the jaw as they came in low out of the sun. Some of the more fiendish used the mosquitoes as an excuse to inflict permanent injury to others. They would knock some poor unfortunate senseless, then say, "Sorry, I was just swatting a couple of mossies".

Others took a tally of their "kills". Mario claimed to be our "ace" with a total of 98,432 not all of which were confirmed.

We arrived at the pick up point well ahead of schedule, because no-one was game to stop for lunch lest they be sucked nearly dry in seconds, and had a relaxing wait for the van in the sunshine - this was of course until it started to rain, hail etc.

Continued on Page 8

The Battle of the Lakes National Park (Contd.)

The van arrived soon after the rain and we made our way back to Melbourne - after stopping for the usual "greasy bag of fish and chips".

On arrival back in Melbourne, the mossies were soon forgotten (or at least forgiven) and the good points of the walk remembered.

We were lucky to have fine weather for the walk (except for the last few minutes and then we found shelter) and were lucky enough to see quite a few different species of plants and animals while being presented with some really good ocean views..

Thanks go to Barry for a really fine and enjoyable walk. (No fences either!)

Linsday Connors

PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND

It was one hour to midnight, the singing had died away; and the firelight reflected brightly in the circle of expectant eyes, all focussed centrally on one whose leathery skin, bare save for loin-shorts, glowed crimson as this Promethian figure crouched over the flames, prodding and poking with the long-handled two-pronged fork. Mouths dribbled saliva, lips smacked. Sizzle of chops and sausages. Mr. President was about to appease the Club appetite.

Previously, in the afternoon, the van arrived at Little River. Alec was already waiting for help to carry the gear to the campsite which was as pleasant a spot as one could have wished for. Soon, other members who had come in their cars joined us in the castrametation. Later, with tea over, Alec took up his trusty hurricane lantern, and, swinging it low, led a procession of walkers for a short excursion into the forest and the night.

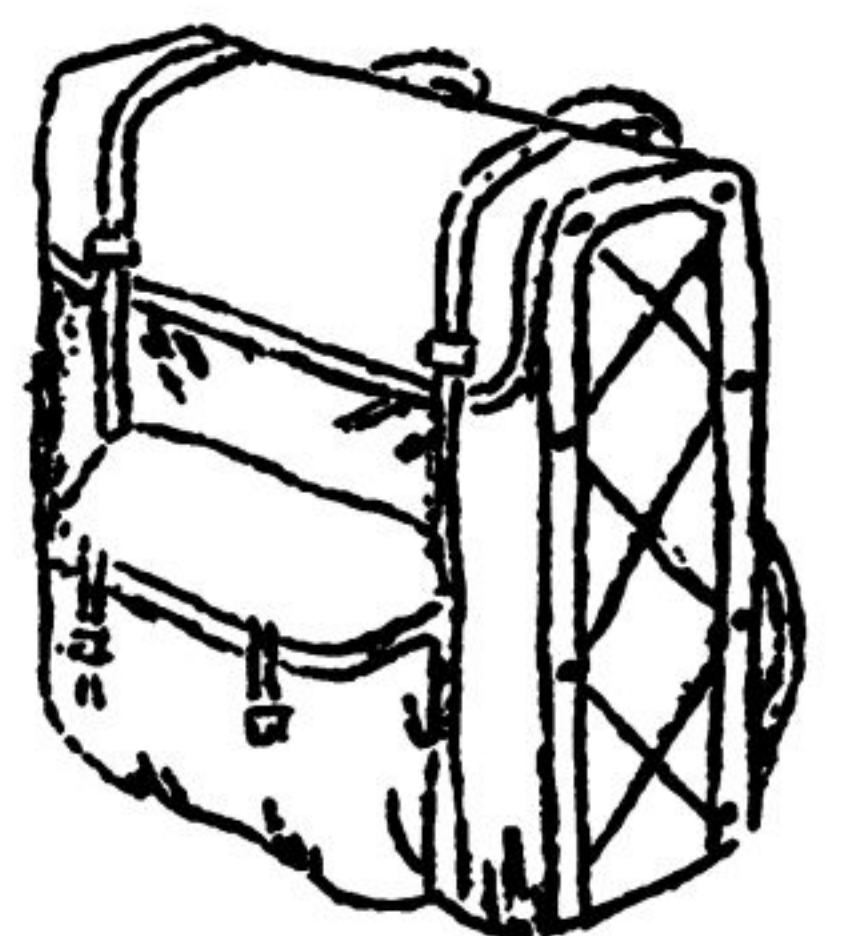
By 10 next morning most were active enough to attempt the climb to Chapel Hill. A cold wind on top turned back some; Michael leading the retreat back to the sunny valley. Meanwhile, the rest of the party had become strung out along the route to The Cathedral. This led to two members missing lunch, that item being in the rucksack of one who had strayed. But all were back ready in time when the van returned to carry us away from the scene of what had been a President's Perfect Weekend.

Athol Schafer

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"ODE TO REX"

It is remarkable how little any but a lichenologist will observe on the bark of trees. The mass of men have but the vaguest and most indefinite notion of lichens, as a sort of shreds and fringes, and the world in which the lichenologist dwells is much further from theirs than one side of this earth from the other. They see bark as if they saw it not ...

Each phase of nature, whilst not invisible, is yet not too distinct and obtrusive. It is there to be found when we look for it, but not demanding our attention. It is like a silent but sympathising companion in whose company we retain most of the advantages of solitude, with whom we can walk and talk, or be silent, naturally, without the necessity of talking in a strain foreign to the place.

I know of only a few persons with whom I can afford to walk ... and do honours to one who shows me the way.

- Thoreau 8th November 1858

Inserted Anonymously

CHRISTMAS PARTY

November 29

November 29

November 29

Doug Pocock's block at Wandin
(map will be in clubroom)

Barbeque supper

Private transport

8.00 p.m. ...

Bring your own meat, drink, utensils etc.

Camp overnight if you wish

November 30

November 30

November 30

Walk in the Wandin area

A van will leave Eatman Avenue at 9.15 a.m. and arrive at the block about 10.45 a.m. The walk will be leaving from there.

LOCH WILSON

692 Glenhuntly Rd.

For all

Caulfield

Bushwalking Equipment,
Climbing gear, Shirts, Pullovers, Sleeping bags.



WILKY WEEKEND DECEMBER 5-7

There will be a meeting in the Clubrooms on Friday 28th November at 9.00 p.m. Could everybody who is booked on the list for the Wilky weekend please make an effort to attend as we have to work out transport arrangements? At present, there is only one car going, so we will have to ballot for places. Everyone who has paid \$1 deposit by the time of the meeting will have a chance to go. It is a pity we will have to ballot but perhaps by then we will have one or two cars more and it will be unnecessary.

Marion Siseman
(p. 878-1839)

SOCIAL

- November 28 - Friday
Doug Pocock will show slides on areas to be covered by the forthcoming Christmas trips.
- November 29 - Saturday
Christmas Barbeque (See elsewhere in "NEWS")
- November 30 - Sunday
Walk along the old railway
- December 1 - Monday
Film night to be held at the Odeon Theatre.
Film "Oh What a Lovely War"
Tickets \$1.50 each on sale now and obtainable from Shirley Trotter (56-2496)

NEW MAPS

The Provisional Compilation of Club Terrace and Bemm 1:50,000 has now been issued by the Lands Department. (This is the eastern half of the Murrangowan and Conran 1" = 1 mile sheet) Due to Departmental reasons, the production of the Provisional Compilation series has been temporarily suspended. However, copies of some more of the 1:50,000 map sheets in the Mallacoota 1:250,000 area are now available.

Anybody who is doing a Christmas trip in this area and requires a map, should see me.

Barry Short

The National Library of Australia, Canberra, has requested back issues of "NEWS". Would any member who has spare copies please give them to Jenny Mead, Rex or Sue Filson as soon as possible.

Illumination is wanted at the Christmas Party, so possessors of hurricane lamps etc. who will be attending this function please take note.

"SOUTHERN WALKABOUT"

By Vincent Serventy. Syd., A.H. and A.W. Reed 1969
Hard cover with dust jacket 9½" x 6¾", 160 pages. \$5.50

Members will need no introduction to Vincent Serventy who is the Editor of "Wild Life in Australia" and producer of nature study films.

His book, "Nature Walkabout" describes his family's travels from Perth northwards, traversing the top of Australia and south to Sydney. In this book, the author, with his wife Carol and their three children, Kathy, Karen and Matt, complete the circuit of the continent from Sydney back to Perth. It is written as though all the events happened on the one journey, for continuity's sake, whereas they occurred during several trips across southern Australia.

Vincent Serventy uses a conversational style of writing, moving fluently from natural history observation, to historical anecdote, to accounts and reminiscences of friends and acquaintances met en-route. Throughout the walkabout the reader is introduced to many well-known names on various scientific expeditions. These names become personal friends as we share the excitement of making new wild life discoveries with them. We are given a glimpse into the private lives of these people - their personalities and love of the Australian bush.

A great deal of knowledge is to be gleaned from the book as information on various subjects has been gathered together to collectively make a handy reference work. Answers are given to such questions as who subsidised the erection of Captain Cook's Cottage in Melbourne, what is "anting", which is the world's most dangerous snake, and how are the giant (over 200 feet) Karri trees felled.

Over a hundred very fine coloured photographs, taken by the author and his wife, elaborate and demonstrate various points in the text.

"Southern Walkabout" is a book very suited for introducing both children and friends to natural history. It is a pleasant readable book, amusing as well as being an adventure story with a difference. People who have seen and enjoyed the T.V. series "Nature Walkabout" will find the book as absorbing as the films. It should encourage readers to take part in the struggle for the conservation of the Australian bush and wildlife.

Rex and Sue Filson

TRACK CLEARING

Saturday 1st November, 1969.

Very early on 1st November, eleven keen bushies tumbled out of their comfortable beds and prepared themselves for a journey to Starling's Gap to do a hard days work of track clearing. No sooner had we arrived at the Gap than Dorrie produced a delicious chocolate cake - and who do you think pops out of the scrub for a slice? After coffee and cake, we tackled the scrub and the logs, and the leeches tackled us. However, by 4.15 p.m. we had cleared another $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the tramway leaving approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of overgrown track yet to be cleared.

The people who attended and did a grand job of track clearing on 1st November were Dorrie Warton, Joan Gibbons, Sue Ball, Sandy Ireland, Kel Wilson, Alan Miller, Tyrone Thomas, Peter Bullard, Spencer George and John Dawdy. Thank you very much folks for your support and effort towards such a worthwhile project. A special thanks to the owners of the vehicles for providing us with transport, and to Sandy for sharpening the machetes.

The next date for a working party up to Starling's Gap is Saturday 29th November. If you feel like having some healthy exercise and want to get fit for week-end and Christmas walks, then see me at the Club rooms on Friday nights or ring me at 93-3617.

Art Terry

NOTES:

Art Terry's telephone number as printed in the Walks Programme for Sealers Cove etc. on 12th-14th December is incorrect. The correct number is 93-3617.

All those intending to participate in the walk on the Sunday after the Christmas Party (30th November) should indicate same on the notice which will be put up in the Club rooms on Friday 21st November.

There will not be a meeting on Friday 26th December. The next meeting after Christmas will be on 2nd January.

We welcome Pam Collinson as a new member. Pam's address is 7 Albert Street, Blackburn p) 898-8704.

Please note that Kaye Karvanen's address is now 6 Matlock Street, East Camberwell.

"NEWS" wishes to thank all contributors to this month's issue.

Due to a wish that "NEWS" not be too bulky this month, some contributions have been held over to December's issue. It is hoped that those contributors who do not see their article in print this month, will not mind their being held in abeyance.

Copy deadline for December "NEWS" - 12th December.

"NEWS" Convenor Jenny Mead.