

THE NEWS

of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

Edition 247

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THE SQUIRE OF GUNDAROO

For reasons best known to himself, Peter Elder, the Squire of Gundaroo, persuaded me to accompany Valerie and himself to a rendezvous with the Melbourne Bushwalking Club at Suggan Buggan on the morning of Good Friday. The rendezvous was made, not without trouble, and we found ourselves surrounded by a crowd of Melburnians. More, indeed, were scattered throughout the bush as far afield as the Pilot. It was my intention to join the easy trip and loaf by the river for four days with a stock of novels. However, it was not to be so - Peter and myself set off with the "medium" party, led by one, Tyrone, to explore the Snowy River.

The day was hot and some of the (male) members were stripped to the waist as we headed through the bush to cut off a slice of road, emerging 2,000 feet above the Snowy River on the road to McKillops Bridge. There came our first serious decision and the first (and last) challenge to the leadership. Tyrone had the idea of dropping straight down a bank of scree to the creek 2,000 feet below. The afternoon was well advanced and it seemed inevitable that a dark dinner was before us. At this point a splinter group, later to become the whole party, suggested that we might make the Snowy River, some four miles away, by proceeding along the road. Three of the lady members succeeded in ridding themselves of their rucksacks on a passing motorist and the party set off at a furious pace downhill. It was nearer to eight miles than four and there were grimaces from sore toes as we pitched camp by the river.

During the meal occurred a strange, if not grotesque incident. I had bought a piece of steak at a "give-away" price but on cooking it discovered that its vile leathery consistency had made it inedible. I promptly threw it on the fire. To my amazement two pairs of hands plucked it from the flames: one elegant pair belonging to Shirley Teelcar, the other, less elegant, belonging to a certain New Zealand shopkeeper. The foul steak was devoured before my eyes.

Next morning the sunlight revealed the truth of our beautiful campsite beside the river. The sight overwhelmed several of the party who promptly volunteered to stay there for the rest of the holiday. I was inclined to be one of this number as the descent of the previous evening had beheaded my toe joints, but, after a few pulls on the Spanish wineskin, I set out with the depleted party along the banks of the Snowy.

The day was another scorcher and our progress was slow with frequent stops for refreshment. The Snowy is flanked on occasions by rocky outcrops which had to be surmounted by heavy expenditure of energy. On one of these scrambles, a

Continued on Page 7

All correspondence should be addressed to:

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

CLUBROOMS

Meetings will be held in Room 110, 3rd Floor, V.R.I. Building, Flinders Street for the rest of this month (October). We are still in the process of looking for permanent clubrooms.

"News" undertakes to keep you posted on the latest developments and the location of the permanent rooms (we hope) as soon as we know ourselves.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING
8.10.69.

Chairman: Alec Proudfoot

Present: Athol Schafer, Rex Filson, Joan Abbott, John Sparksman, Art Terry, Shirley Trotter, Marion Siseman, Tyrone Thomas, Rod Mattingley, Dorothy Warton, Jenny Mead.

Apologies: Fred Halls

Correspondence

Kilmore Historical Society Walk scheduled for Saturday November 15. (for details see Page 8)

Walks Secretary

110-120 participated in walks during September. Family walks will be included in the Summer Programme.

The Moomba Walk is to be arranged by M.B.W. with Art Terry as the leader. It is hoped the Club will strongly support this.

Social Secretary

Christmas Party - those attending are required to bring their own food and drinks for a barbeque supper. A Sunday walk has been planned with a van but those wishing to do so can camp the night at the Pocock's block.

Wilkinson Lodge

A weekend at the Lodge has been organised for 5-7 December and is primarily for those members who have not previously been there.

Track Clearing

19 attended the weekend 3-5 October. Extensive work was done on the Little Ada River and Ada Valley Tracks. A further work party is planned for Saturday 1st November and more are planned to complete this job.

Native Plants

Field Day 25th October, Kinglake National Park. Those interested should contact Athol Schafer.

Continued on Page 3

Search and Rescue

The following report was submitted by Fred Halls:

"During the search for the light aircraft lost from Lilydale on the 14th September 1969, two call-ups were made for members of the Club's Search and Rescue Group.

The first call on Tuesday 16th resulted in the following members joining the day search in the vicinity of Kinglake National Park.

Barry Short
Darrell Sullivan
John Sparksman

John Siseman
Loch Wilson
Arthur Whyte

Later, a further call on Friday 19th resulted in the following members joining the weekend search in the Gladysdale-Britannia Creek region.

Darrell Sullivan
Loch Wilson
Harold Peterson

Arthur Whyte
Peter Johns
Bill Thompson

Owing to adverse weather conditions, the unsuccessful search was called off late in the afternoon of Sunday 21st.

Many thanks are due to these members, who had the onerous task of searching in adverse weather conditions."

General Business

Due to the fact that enquiries by visitors have often been made to walk leaders and others for a Walk Programme, the leaders will now carry copies of this Programme.

Any members wishing to obtain a Club badge may procure same from the Secretary for 50c.

It was moved by Rex Filson and seconded by Marion Siseman that Jenny Mead be co-opted to act as News Convenor until the next Annual General Meeting.

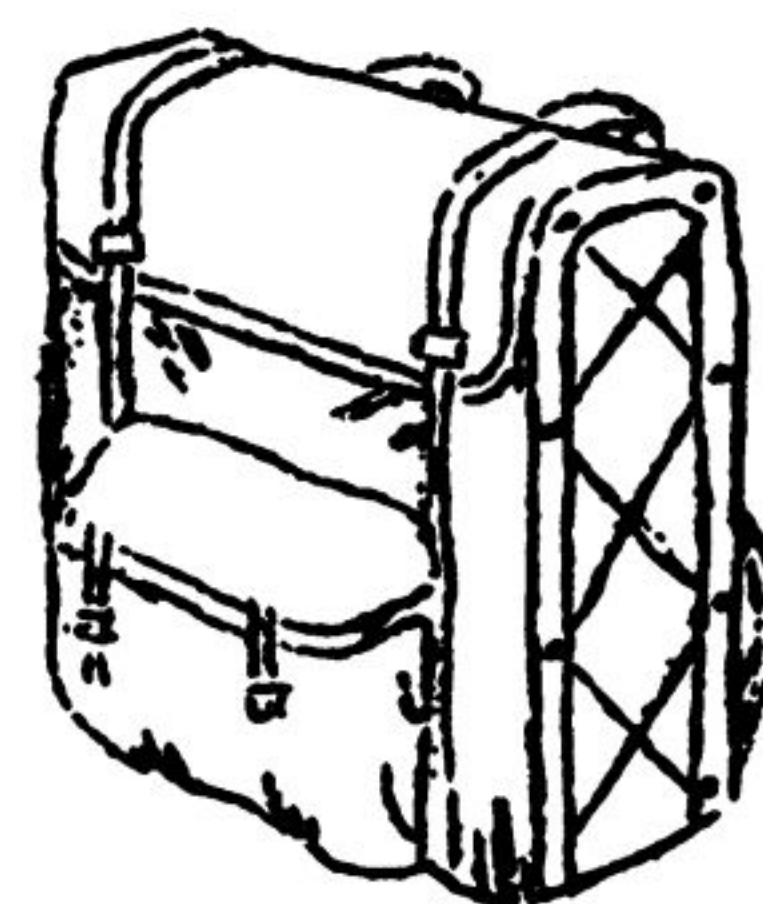
A new Gestetner which will be used to print our own Walks programme in the future has been purchased for \$230.

DUTY ROSTER:

October: 24 - Dorrie Warton
31 - Shirley Trotter
November: 7 - Jenny Mead
14 - Marion Siseman
21 - Jan Abbott

AUSKI 9 Hardware St.
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WALKS PREVIEWSDAY WALKS:

- NOVEMBER 2 MT. TANGLEFOOT-HARDY'S CREEK-MT. MONDA-HEAVESVILLE
 Leader: Alma Strappazon p)86-7559 Medium
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.70
 Map reference: Juliet Military 1:50000
 A pleasant walk, mostly on tracks, through the thickly timbered country north of Healesville. The finishing point is more than 2,000 feet lower than the start, which means it is nearly all downhill.
4. UPPER FERNTREE GULLY-CHANDLER'S HILL-MOORE'S BREAK
 Leader: Athol Schafer p)211-2649 Easy
 Train departs Flinders Street station 9.15 (check this time), returning city 6 p.m. Ticket 2nd return Belgrave, 0.88
 Map reference: Monbulk Military
 Medium exertion
- 9 NEW GISBORNE-MACEDON R.-MACEDON
 Leader required Easy
 Train departs Spencer Street 9.30 a.m. returning 9.25 p.m. Ticket Sunday Exc. Macedon, \$1.65
 Map reference: Lancefield Military 1 inch
 Approximate distance 10 miles
 An easy walk, with few hills, starting from Gisborne Station and finishing at Macedon Station. Partly open paddocks (few fences) and partly woodland tracks.
- 16 INGLISTON-THE ISLAND-WERRIBEE GORGE
 Leader: Gwenda Sutton p)651-5526 Easy-Medium
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.60
 Map reference: Ballan Military 1 inch
 In one of the most popular areas, we follow the Werribee River through the spectacular gorge, with time to scramble up the steep sides to enjoy the view if you wish.
- 23 PINCHGUT HILL-IRONBARK SPUR-AIREY'S INLET Medium
 Leader required
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$2.00
 Map reference: Anglesea Military 1 inch
 A good walk through the heavily timbered country just inland from the Great Ocean Road, finishing near Airey's Inlet.

WEEKEND WALKS:

- NOVEMBER 7-9 SAWMILL SETTLEMENT-MT. BULLER-LITTLE BULLER-HOWQUA RIVER-or SHEEPYARD FLAT-HOWQUA RIVER
 Leader: Rod Mattingley (Leader required for the Sheeppyard Flat-Howqua River trip)
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m. Fare \$5.00
 Expected time of return 8 p.m.
 Map reference: VKTC-Watersheds of the King Howqua and Jamieson : Lands Dept. - Mt. Buller 1:50,000
 It is intended that this trip be split up into two parties Medium/Hard walk to Mt. Buller and for those less energetic; a very easy walk along the Howqua River.
- 21-23 AIRE VALLEY-WILD DOG CREEK-SKENES CREEK LOOKOUT
 Leader: Tyrone Thomas Medium
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m. Fare \$4.50
 If you would like a weekend in Canada come to the Aire Valley, a spot the club has not been to before.

Continued on Page 5



ALONG THE TRACK

A MYSTERY NO LONGER!

Was it the lure of the unknown? Whatever it was we signed up, curiosity whetted, for the 28th September to see where Michael's Mystery Walk would lead to. But it was a quick evaporating mystery: even before leaving Batman Avenue, we were told that some members knew where they could join the van. Out along Whitehorse Road - The Dandenongs? No -- Warburton back roads instead.

The day's itinerary was in two parts. We started with a morning walk through the colourful butchers'-calendar scenery of fattening cattle resting in lush grass amid tall timber. Amply attractive country, even though it was all road walking. But no complaint; the walk was shortish, the lunch-break long. Still, rather mildly surprising in view of the leader's recently published remarks about road bashing.

However, the leader later led us on to a bush track, mostly in a 50 yard diameter circle, like a ritualistic prelude before leaving Mt. Monda's shade and stepping into the second part of the programme. Soon we were in country of urban spread, land subdividers, and the bush bulldozed and burnt. Pity the future walkers - poor seeds. A motor road noisy and fume brought us to the entrance of the Healesville sanctuary for wildlife -- and a multitude of good citizens partaking in society's standardised reward, the crowning pleasure of the weekend -- The Sunday Drive. (Incidentally, the sanctuary is well worth a visit, but it would be better on off-days.) Despite the bumper-to-bumper crawl, we were back home reasonably early.

Athol Schafer

WALK PREVIEWS (Contd.)

Aire Valley has very large areas of fir trees, spruce and other pines not usually seen in Australian plantations. There are also numerous waterfalls amid the pines some up to 100 feet drop. The walk will commence via the old railway to Beech Forest, then through Aire Valley, on to Wild Dog Creek and more waterfalls, down a long spur of the Otways near Apollo Bay to the coast, then a four mile stroll along the rugged coastline below the Great Ocean Road. Skenes Creek Lookout is thrown in for good measure. Bring the bathers as there will be time for swimming along the seafront. The general direction all the weekend is downhill - should be a first class walk, especially if the weather is warm.

NOTE

Max Corry will, on 14th November present a talk on the Amery Ice Shelf and show slides and a movie.

SUE'S SNIPPETS

Thanks Michael for standing in (writing in) whilst the latest Filson's Folly joined the fold.

Michael, I believe you overlooked a couple of names on your "pairs" list.

WALK 1970 is just about to commence rolling off the press. Hope all the eager newsboys are waiting ready and willing to sell the best-seller of the year.

I think this column will have to re-named "OLDIES" as active members of yesteryear seem to feature more than new comers. How about one of the newer people coming to my rescue and supplying me with the whispers you hear. I can guarantee they will go no further than "NEWS".

For all the members with young children, three short walks are to be programmed in January, February and March, 1970. This is an opportunity to start walking again and introduce your children to the joys of bushwalking.

It is nice to see the Pococks and the Sharpes out of retirement. The Botany Walk has been their first Club trip for a long time.

Good to hear the hearty laugh of the President again. Queensland and bird watching seems to have agreed with him.

Boys are all the rage. A big M.B.W. welcome to Simon Van Der Duys and John Weiling, two new interstate bushies born in the last two months.

The Brownlies have moved into Mt. Isa semi permanently judging by the camp site - flagging, wash stand, chairs and table - quite the modern camp home. They welcome news from their southern friends. Write C/o P.O. Mt. Isa.

September saw another two bushies join the marriage circle. Shirley and Allan now have the same surname. Eastern suburbs have added another couple to their ranks.

Red Bluff in the big desert was surrounded by bushies during Show Day. It is good to report that the Toyota and the Land Rover came over the sand dunes as good as each other (though I would like to report that the English vehicle did more brilliantly).

News from the Singapore branch is that Liz Bray is visiting her home town for a couple of months over Christmas. It will be good to see you once more Liz.

How do you like the new look "NEWS". With this issue we welcome our new editor Jenny. We wish you a happy and long association with "NEWS" and hope many members lend some assistance to this new member who is so willing to help the Club.

It is a pity that the dates of the President's weekend and the Annual get-together clash this year - faulty planning somewhere. These are two events that many members with families could patronise.

PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND

The President will be at home on the banks of the Little River, east of the Cathedral Range on 25th and 26th of this month and he and his Committee cordially invites all members of that ancient and honorable order officially known at the Melbourne Bushwalkers, together with their hangerson, to be with them on this solemn occasion.

Follow the Maroondah Highway to Cathedral Lane, a mile short of Taggerty. Follow the Lane for a bit over a mile and turn right along Little River Road. The precise site has not yet been chosen but it will be announced at next Friday's meeting and a notice will be placed at a prominent spot along the road, giving directions.

Meat, bread and booze will be on the house at supper on Saturday night. Embellishments are your own affair. Likewise you will have to provide your own board and lodging, but the area is extensive and trees and grass are in ample supply.

It is suggested you bring the song sheets which have been tacked on to The News during the last year. Some of you may like to teach a song or two to the mob. The President may graciously allow this AFTER learning the words of the songs.

A few decent lamps would be welcome, they would give general illumination if hung aloft at strategic points.

Those who survive the night's orgy may succeed in stirring the President into undertaking a walk on Sunday a.m. along a circuit of about five miles, which as everyone knows may turn out to be more.

We will need to know:

- (i) How many are coming (this determines how many chops are bought).
- (ii) How many need van transport (this determines the size of the van, if any).

SO PLEASE SIGN THE LIST ON THE NOTICE BOARD IF
YOU ARE INTENDING PARTICIPATION

The Squire of Gundaroo (Contd.)

a wombat emerged from beneath the feet of a lady doctor. The surprise was mutual. Finally, late in the afternoon but before dark, we made camp on a side creek at the foot of the ridge up which we were to climb. The water in the creek was clear, unlike the turbid brew of the Snowy.

The third day began with a 2,000 foot climb up St. Helena Ridge. Fortunately we had started early under Tyrone's whip and the loss of sweat from my brow was more than compensated by the intake of wine. We finally broke out into open pastures near the Buchan Road about 11 a.m. and lunch was taken at the junction of this road with the track to Mount Seldom Seen Summit. Our decision to reach this summit was rewarded by an unusual prize. A land Rover track picked us all up, took us to the top of Mount Seldom Seen Summit and the driver, who was the local firewatcher, gave us a running commentary on the beautiful all-round panorama stretching to Mt. Kosciusko. That night we camped in the bush on the Wombargo track with much merriment around an enormous fire.

On the last day we resumed our progress along the track and after a bit of misnavigation over which I shall draw a discreet veil, we arrived at a VW Kombi owned by the estimable Kel. The sequence of events which followed is still confusing to me. We all boarded the van after having pushed it for some way to start it; en route to wherever we were going, we met a carful of Melbourne walkers who had been to the Pilot. This apparently caused us to abandon our plan, whatever it had been, and return to Suggan Buggan. There we rejoined Valerie, and I met one Felix, whom I had last seen across the room in Narcissus Hut, Cradle Mountain, eating a substance called "Marva" out of the lightest pack I have ever witnessed in the bush.

Thus the weekend ended. Some of the Melburnians had learned about daffodil growing and how to drink from the Spanish wineskin, and I had learned about bank loans, lawn mowers, pigs and how to sell caribiners in Caulfield.

Geoff Marston
(Canberra Bushwalking Club)

KILMORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WALK

A walk along the route of the old railway line between Kilmore and Lancefield is to be held on Saturday 15th November, departing from Kilmore Station at 8.30 a.m. This line was open from 1892 until 1903 and the walk is being organised by the Kilmore Historical Society. The charge is \$1.50 and included in this charge is a large barbeque lunch and afternoon tea. At the completion of the walk, transport from Lancefield back to Kilmore is to be provided.

A notice will be put on the notice board. Alec Proudfoot has kindly volunteered to be leader of the M.B.W. group.

NOTICE OF MOTION for the General Meeting on 31st October

"I move a motion that we print Walk 1971"

Proposed by Rex Filson
Seconded by Michael Griffin.

Anyone with any strong views on this subject please come to the meeting full of ideas. Nominations will be called for the position of Editor and the election will be held at this meeting.

A tentative extension to Art Terry's tentative walk over the Christmas-New Year period has been planned by Gerry McPhee. The tentative arrangement is that at the end of Art's four or five days Gerry will be going to Mt. Nelse, Mt. Hotham and Mt. Feathertop. Duration will be between three and five days.

A communication has been received giving the current prices for airdrops in Tasmania. John Sparksman has the details for interested parties.

BOOK NOW

BOOK NOW

BOOK NOW

for

WILKINSON LODGE WEEKEND

December 5-7

Bookings are now open and the list is filling up already.

Overflow will be accommodated at Wallaces and Cope Hut.

Walks will take place Saturday and Sunday.

Enquiries - M. Siseman
(878-1839)

TRACK CLEARING WEEK-END

3rd-5th October

Weather - Friday and Saturday - good leech weather (they had a field day on Saturday)
Sunday - a beautiful day

Place - Ada River Valley

The muster this year for our annual working week-end was attended by 19 willing, enthusiastic and hard working people who cleared approximately 4½ miles of track - most of this was achieved on Saturday under very wet and cold conditions. Our intention was to clear the main Ada River-Starling's Gap tramway on Saturday but an inspection disclosed that the tramway had been cleared by bulldozer in the direction of Starling's Gap. Not knowing how far it was cleared, we decided to clear the tramway around to the old mill site beyond the Little Ada River. We also cleared the high lead section from the Ada River to Dowey Spur Road. Paper pulp interests are again opening up this beautiful area and tracks are being bulldozed in many places.

On Sunday, Spencer kindly transported us in his car to Starling's Gap from where we started clearing the tramway in the direction of the Ada River, approximately 1½ miles were cleared during the morning. The day walkers came through about midday and as we also had to walk through to the Noojee-Powelltown Road via the Ada River and High Lead to meet the van, we decided to call it a day. Kel had provided transport for the heavy track clearing equipment so our load was lightened somewhat on our trek from the Ada River to the Latrobe River.

A family of opossums made themselves comfortable in Dorrie's tent on Saturday night - if they were looking for that chocolate cake Dorrie, I think they were out of luck with Tyrone about. I'm still not sure what brought Ty out on this week-end. He knew you were bringing along that cake Dorrie, perhaps it was the cake, maybe it was his love for the bushland and mountains, but whatever it was, he did an excellent job of track clearing. The girls worked as hard as the fellows - Rose finished up with blisters on her hand, proof enough.

The people listed below are those who cleared the tracks on this week-end. Kel Wilson; Spencer George, Dorrie Warton, Alec Proudfoot, Geoff Angell, Lindsay Connors, Joan Gibbons, Tony and Bev Morris, Ian and Rosemary Smith, Sue Ball, Peter Bullard, Peter Johns, Alan Miller, Hans Oppersdorff, Roger Brown and Tyrone Thomas.

To these people, on behalf of the Club and myself, I sincerely thank for their attendance and the work done - it was a pleasure to lead such a co-operative and willing group. Special thanks go to Spencer for transporting us between the Ada River and Starling's Gap and to Kel for transporting the gear back to Melbourne. Special thanks also to the people who brought along their own track clearing equipment, and a final thank you to Doug Crocker and Ian Morrison who, unable to attend, lent bush saws and machetes. We must also not forget to thank Dennis for getting us into our destination on that wet Friday night.

We would like to finish the track between Starling's Gap and where the bulldozed track finishes. Another section in need of attention is from the foot of the High Lead along Big Creek to the Latrobe River.

Art Terry

Apperly; Fairlie 62 Canterbury Road, Toorak, 3142
Crocker, Colin 5716977 2nd Section 9 Platoon B Company
Fuekapunya, 3662
Gibbons, Joan Flat 1, 10 Rockley Road, South Yarra, 3141 p)24-5696
b)51-0281, ext. 2455
Miksevicius, Tony Flat 2, 147 Curzon Street, North Melbourne, 3051
Phillips, Ian and Mrs. Ann 67 Glyndon Road, Camberwell, 3124
Richardson, Enid 153 Hoddle Street, Richmond, 3121
Scott, Merv and Mrs. Mary 692 Glenhuntly Road, South Caulfield, 3162
Sheehy, Ian Flat 1, 18 Webster Street, Ballarat, 3350
Steel, Robert C/o Commonwealth Employment Service, Wangaratta, 3677
Sutton, Gwenda b)651-6626
Veenstra, Allen and Mrs. Shirley Flat 8, 115 Victoria Road, Hawthorn
East, 3123
Wilson; Kel p)546-6171
Wilson, Loch 692 Glenhuntly Road, South aulfield, 3162

It was hoped that with a new "NEWS" Convenor, a new Gestetner and a new layout, this month's "NEWS" would be beginning of a new era, but it looks as if the new era will have to wait 'till next issue.

News Convener - Jenny Mead