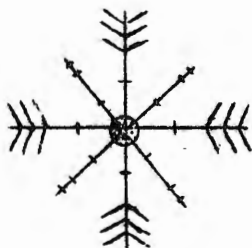


SEASONS GREETINGS

from

The Editor, Staff and all
members of the Committee



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 261

December 1970

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

A THUNDEROUS TREAD

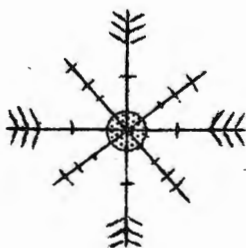
Did you know that members completing all day-walks programmed during 1969 would have walked a total distance of approximately 500 miles - enough to get them from here to Adelaide?

The same distance would also have been achieved by attending only 20 day-walks, but plus 8 weekend walks plus two or three extended walks. However, when looking at the overall number of miles walked in regard to total attendances we stop into the astronomical. For the year 1969 the grand gross mileage of members and visitors achieved the truly magnificent count of.....

ONE POINT TWO MILLION MILES (1,200,000)

All calculations are based on figures given in the Annual Report in which I have allowed 11 miles for day-walks, 20 for weekend and 40 for extended.
Walking-boot manufacturers please note!!

Athol Schafer



All correspondence should be addressed to:

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

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, Hosier Lane, at the rear of the Forum Theatre, every Wednesday night at 8.00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

EXTRACTS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

7th December, 1970

Chairman: Alec Proudfoot

Present: Athol Schafer, Sue Ball, Roger Brown, Jenny Mead, John Sparksman, Rod. Mattingley, Graham Mascas, Rex Filson, Tyrone Thomas, Dorrie Warton, Barbara Davies, Judy Shegog,

Apologies: Peter Carlyon.

Treasurer: Finances Satisfactory.

Walks Secretary:

A record number of people attended club walks in November. There were 252 attendances, including 74 visitors. This beats the previous record set in August this year, and was probably due to the fact that there were three weekend walks in succession, as well as the cup-day walk. Recently there have been quite a few walks where a significant number of people have not turned up for walks on which they have booked. One of the club by-laws states that members who do not pay a deposit and do not turn up for the walk they have booked on, WILL be charged that amount if they do not contact the leader or the Walks Secretary before-hand.

Social Secretary:

The recent Bowling evening was reported to have been a great success and appeared to be thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The club would like to extend its appreciation to Marg. Jorgensen for her effort in helping to organise it. Judy has kindly offered her home as a venue for a slide evening. Stuart Hodgson will be showing some slides of his recent travels overseas so members and their friends are welcome. A barbecue will be held beforehand so bring your food and grog along also. This evening will be on Tuesday, 19th January, 1971 from 5.30 p.m. onwards.

Wilkinson Lodge:

During 1970, (up to Dec.13) a total of 93 different people visited Wilky. This number includes 76 members and 17 visitors. 21 people visited the Lodge more than once. Outside Cladding of the walls of the Lodge will be completed over Christmas it is hoped. This cladding will save maintenance of the exterior walls as well as providing additional insulation. It is hoped that the many improvements to Wilky will be justified by a greater attendance of members and their friends in the future. This Lodge belongs to you so endeavour to use it!

Equipment Officer:

Sue is appealing to any-one who may know of the following people who have not returned equipment hired a long time ago. If you know of their addresses please contact Sue or Barbara Davies. The people concerned are: Heily Levendig, Patience Bourne, & Kathy Howell.

Track Clearing:

It was suggested that the next Club track-clearing weekend should be spent MARKING the Long Hill ridge between Mt. Tamboritha and The Crinoline.

Committee of Management:

60 chairs have been purchased very cheaply for the clubrooms, 30 of them belonging to MBW and the rest to the Mens' Walking Club.

Notice to Committee Members:

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday, 18th January, 1971.

General Business:

It was decided that no meeting of this club will be held on Wednesday, 30th December, 1970. PLEASE !! Take note of this fact.

WALK PREVIEWSDAY WALKS:

- January 10 RIDDELL-JACKSONS CREEK-SUNBURY.
 Leader: Roger Brown p) 57-6729 Easy
 Map reference: Lancefield and Sunbury 1:63,360
 Train leaves Spencer Street Station 9.30 a.m. Buy Sun. Exc. to Gisborne. Fare \$1.40. Expected time of return 9.25 p.m.
 A pleasant stroll down Jacksons Creek from Riddell to Sunbury. There are some interesting gorges and waterfalls to be seen, swimming should be possible. So start the New Year off right. Come out on this walk and walk off all those Christmas dinners and New Year Parties!
- 17 BUSHRANGERS BAY-GUNNAMATTA BEACH.
 Leader: Jenny Mead p) 25-1709 Easy
 Map reference: Sorrento Military 1:63,360
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m.
 If the day is coolish we may indeed walk from Bushrangers Bay to Gunnamatta Beach. If it's hot, who knows! Bring bathers and anything else the weather decrees. Guaranteed not to get lost this time.
- 31 KILMORE EAST-MONUMENT HILL-WALLAN.
 Leader: John Hillard p) 53-9257 Medium
 Train leaves Spencer Street Station 9.30 a.m. Buy Sun. Exc. to Kilmore East. Fare \$1.40.
 As the leader has not previewed this walk yet, he feels indisposed to tell you about this thrilling sojourn, but do not let this be your last thoughts about the matter! This walk has been changed to the Yarra Glen Area due to transport difficulties.
- 24 FAMILY WALK-LERDERDERG GORGE.
 Leader: Alec Proudfoot p) 98-3155 Bludge
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.70.
 Please see below for details.

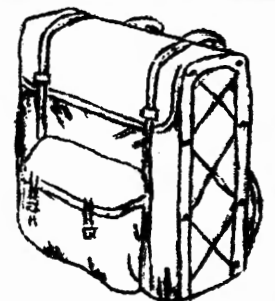
WEEKEND WALKS:

- January 23-24 LILLO DERBY-LERDERDERG GORGE
 Leader: Alec Proudfoot p) 98-3155 Easy
 Map reference: Any map of the bed of the Lerderderg River up to 3 miles from Darley Ford. Approx. distance 3 miles each way.
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 1.30 p.m. Expect to return 7 p.m.
 Struggle up to the campsite. Cast your aching body into the icy depths of the torrent. Erect tent, eat, sleep, eat, rest, swim in pool with assistance of lilo, compete for last place in Lilo Derby, eat, rest, come home.
 N.B. 1. Resist improbable blandishments on part of leader to go for walk (REMEMBER THAT OTHER WALK THIS WAY!)
 N.B. 2. Bring sandshoes to protect your delicate feet from the smooth rocks. Better bring bathing togs - there may be some tourists. Of course the lilo (standard models only accepted - definitely no hotting-up allowed).
 N.B. 3. Chops & sausages NOT on the house even though President-led. N.B. 4. Recommend do 2 hard walks prior to this one to ensure proper degree of fitness.

Continued on Page 4.

AUSKI 9 Hardware St.
 Phone 67 1412

The Bushwalking Specialist
 Paddymade equipment, Packs, etc.



WALK PREVIEWS (Continued)January 29-Feb.1. MOUNTAIN CREEK-MT. BOGONG-WILKINSON LODGE-NIGGER HEADS-MT. FAINTER
-MT. BEAUTY TOWNSHIP.

Leader: Art Terry p) 93-3617 Medium-Hard
 Map references: Forests Comm. Feathertop 1"=1 mile; MUMC. Mt. Bogong 2"=1 mile; MBW. Bogong High Plains & adjacent peaks 1"=1 mile
 Transport: Private-about 6.30 p.m.
 This is an excellent alpine walk across the highest peaks and plains of Victoria - and could cater for 3 groups of walkers:-

- No. 1 Group: 1st Day Mountain Creek to Cleve Cole Hut.
2nd Day Explore the plains and peaks around Mt. Bogong.
3rd Day Return to Mountain Creek via Eskdale Spur.
- Nos. 2 & 3 Groups: 1st Day Same as No. 1 Group.
2nd Day Cleve Cole Hut to Wilkinson Lodge via T spur and Mt. Nelse.
- No. 2 Group: 3rd Day: Visit near places of interest from Lodge. Return to Melbourne in the afternoon.
- No. 3 Group: 3rd Day Continue on to Mt. Beauty township via plains, Niggerheads and Mt. Fainter. Return to Melbourne from Mt. Beauty late afternoon.

January 29-Feb.1. STAIRCASE SPUR-MT. BOGONG-QUARTZ NOB-SPION KOPJE-HOWMANS GAP.

Leader: Roger Brown p) 57-6729 Medium
 Map reference: Feathertop-Forests Comm. 1"=1 mile. & Tawonga-Forests Comm. 1"=1 mile. Transport: Private - about 6.30 p.m.
 Don't miss this opportunity to see Mt. Bogong and the surrounding country. Mt. Bogong will be conquered via the Eskdale Spur. Good views will be obtained on the descent along QUARTZ KNOB RIDGE to Big River. The second day will be spent in walking 5 miles to Ropers Hut and then bludging. The third and unfortunately final day will take in Spion Kopje where good views of KIEWA VALLEY can be obtained.

January 29-Feb.1. WILKINSON LODGE

Leader: Michael Griffin b) 80-1333 Easy
 Map reference: MBW-Bogong High Plains & adjacent peaks 1"= 1 mile.
 Private transport: about 6.30 p.m.
 How would you like to spend three glorious days at the club hide-away on the Bogong High Plains? The following recreations are offered to you:-

1. An icy swim in Rocky Valley Dam. Bring your yacht too!
2. A stroll across the high plains - perhaps climbing Mt. Nelse & Rocky Knobs etc.
3. A laze around the Lodge, reading your favourite novel.
4. A session as chief cook and bottle washer (what a hope!)
5. Melodious evenings being entertained by any musically inclined persons present.

P.S. You can be assured of cold cans if put in Nature's own refridgerator situated in close proximity to the Lodge.

January 28-Feb.2. KING ISLAND: ISLAND LAGOON-WHISTLER POINT-MUTTON BIRD ROOKERY-
LOORANA.

Leader: Ian Sheehy p) Ballarat 2 2157 Easy
 Map reference: Broadbents - King Island.
 Transport may be arranged with your leader as pilot(!); those with more than the long weekend available may use the regular air service, fare \$31 return.
 King Island is situated in Bass Straight, midway between Victoria and Tasmania, about 150 miles SSW from Melbourne. A notable feature of the low lying island is its wide white sandy beaches, ideal for walking and swimming, in a delightful climate. The coast abounds in shipwrecks, some of which we might find. A night will be spent near a mutton bird rookery, holding our noses while we watch the spectacle of a mutton bird "parade" in which thousands of the big birds return for the night. To ensure a place on this unusual walk in a part of Australia in which the people retain "old - fashioned" friendliness, start saving and contact the leader before Christmas (at the last Wednesday meeting).



ALONG THE TRACK

CATHKIN - MT. MAXWELL - YARCK

This walkathon consisted of 24 wierdly shaped and outfitted bods, nine being females and your guess is as good as mine as to the sex of the remaining fifteen.

The walk contained all the normal characteristics, i.e. the presence of many fences; tightly wired ones, sagging ones, (especially after we crossed them) electric ones and of course those fences intent on causing greivous bodily harm to bushwalkers.

After many hours of impatient sitting in the van, we alighted, and all practically fell on to the first fence of the day; in fact it was so close that the introductory circle was nearly bisected by it. After no apparent maimings on the accursed barrier, the second obstacle loomed up ahead - a large hill; many bods by this stage had stripped to bare essentials as it was a hot day and the climb did little to improve it. In amongst all the general moans of "Oh why did I come? - there's a fridge full of icy beer at home", there were a couple of "Gee, what a beaut views" 's.

Lunch was had in the shade of a minute gum tree. Of course to be a walker one must possess the corrosive digestive juices of a shark, the alimentary tract of an ostrich and the pancreas of a platypus, so lunch was naturally a beaut selection of food items. The afternoon was an easy stroll down ridges, good water being scarce, the only liquid around seemed to contain dead caterpillars and flies etc, all of which surely, could not have beneficial effects upon the purity of the mountain water. However, when civilisation was again reached, thirsts were quenched in the only milk bar in town. And, Oh Boy! was it in for a shock; two dozen thirsty people invaded the premises; just as well there were plenty of cows out the back of the shop.

Thus ended another beaut walk and Barbara unhappily moaned because, as she did not lose anyone, she could not carve any more notches in her trusty Red Riding Hood outfit.

*** Graham Hodgson ***

WERRIBEE GORGE - FAMILY WALK Nov 15th

We started out by crossing the treacherous Werribee River, walking about 200 yards. We then stopped at a pepper tree covered with Dader Vine which is a parasite and slowly it strangles the tree.

We walked on by the aquaduct for about half an hour until we reached the lunch spot. Some of us made a slide down to the lunch spot, and while exploring I found some tent pegs. There were a lot of tadpoles in a rock pool till Monique and me jumped in with them! Then we walked back to the van. We were just about to leave when a few of the day walkers waved madly till we saw them and picked them up.

*** Wendy Davies ***

Along The Track (Continued)

ONCE UPON A WEEKEND - OR - THE SAGA OF THE NORTH PROM.

Once upon a time I used to go bushwalking—indeed I even wandered down the lighthouse track with the MBW and, as we spied Rodondo Island, in the distance, we annexed" it, but — we never did get there. Now those companions are gone, and I felt need of some exercise after several years of study. So, after missing out on the "Governors'" trip, I decided and looked accordingly to wander down to Roaring Meg and again spy Rodondo with young Art. (I really wanted to go to the North but was too late)

I duly caught the van, but found out at the tea-stop in Korumburra, that there were one or two vacancies on Roger's trip, so I changed over to go to the North after all. The rain came down in torrents, practically drowning some poor souls camped out, but I survived the night in the van.

In the morning, great agitations as to whether the sea was sufficiently calm enough or not — eventually a bigger boat was obtained (I'd hate to see the size of the smaller one!) and the skipper recognized me from a trip I had made to Chinamen's Beach several years before. About 9 a.m. we landed on Bilbie's Beach and at once set out to climb Mt. Singapore. Then we walked, down and up, through jungle, glad to wear long trousers and keep as much covered as possible. Eventually I was already tiring when we reached Mt. Hunter, which had a most odd flag pole with odder flag, and beautiful views of both sides of the 'Prom'. My lunch hour was a half hour, then on again, but, wait! While I packed, two thirds of the party left and reassembled on a little crest. Here, it seems, the young upstart, who informed us loudly in the van that he regularly drives his car at about 70 miles per hour, (called the party's leader) tells most folk (but not me and half a dozen other laggards) of the proposed route, including three & five mile beaches on the eastern shore. So we had the great walk downhill, almost as tough as going up it. Gradually age, heat and unfitness take their toll and I lag behind.

Eventually reaching a crest where I could see two beaches and what I later learnt to be Mt. Margaret, I blew my whistle as I could no longer see any of the party. As I heard whistles from my right (The Corner Inlet side) I moved in that direction but saw no-one. I then spent two or more hours trying to cross an impassable swamp with bushes 6 and 7 feet tall. By the time I got around to the Mt. Margaret side, of course no-one was there. I retired, to camp by the beacon feeling somewhat melancholic.

Next morning I ate half of Saturday night's tea, then waited till 10 a.m. in case some-one came looking for me. The meal probably raised my spirits so I decided to continue, but was still under the impression that I had to go west, not east. (An explanation by the leader with a map would have helped here. Whether I lagged or not, I should have known where I was expected to go). The next few hours were spent climbing Mt. Margaret then walking along its ridge as alternative directions revealed impenetrable swamplands. Whilst on this ridge I was the road in the distance so I pushed my way through the thick scrub to it. I believe the rest of the party walked out by a track to three-mile beach, but apparently I had struck the "inland" track. At times I was tired, and stopped for rests but I did walk as fast as I was able to. When the track went westwards I felt happier, thinking this was the right direction. Many plants were still in bloom at this time, including a rare (for me anyway) one seen on one of the bushes.

Walking on the track through grass swamp-land was very boring, but there was very interesting walking through groves and later, forests of banksia. Eventually, coming to deep gully containing a gurgling brook. I paused then came to a more prominent road. This road seemed to go in quite the wrong direction by my reckoning. Further on there was a beautiful little stream where I quenched my thirst satisfactorily. Around a corner, a track came in from what I later learnt to be three-mile beach but it entered at such an angle that made me think that I should not take it. A few furlongs further the track was not so obvious, so I consulted my Broadbents map of the Prom. and my compass. I decided it would be wiser to walk parallel to the Vereker Range, rather than risk taking the other track. Before long I noticed footprints on the track, travelling in both directions!! As I knew it had rained that night I realised they had been made that day. Of course I did not know that my party had made these tracks, so by now I felt rather confused. At about 5 p.m. a Land Rover, sent out to search for me, picked me up and took me to the waiting van at the junction of the fire-access track and the sealed road.

Along The Track (Continued)

This is the second time that the MBW have left me behind - perhaps I ought not give them a third opportunity - otherwise they might succeed! During my sojourn I saw many plants whose names I did not know, and I also saw two or three wallabies, a kangaroo, a mouse and a grey bird which looked like the continuation of the stump it was standing on. I had some good exercise, but that wears off in a day; and the weekend proved to be interesting although not in the way I had expected.

Fidel - or after this trip with the Club, perhaps in view of the ill-founded legends of Rodondo? - I ought to sign myself Nicholas R. Cole.

ART'S ADVENTURERS

Friday night and it's raining cats and dogs. Sundry leeches crawling about one's exposed face, and a wet sleeping bag make the night long and trying.

Morning brings the sun and we wait until the bush has a chance to dry out a bit, then set off up the track and over Martin's hill. Soon our valiant leader, in his kindly fashion, tactfully coaxes us into long pants and leather gloves, and with admirable finesse gives a short oratory on the joys of the Prom. scrub. We listen wide eyed to his blandishments. Alas!! Do not trust him, gentle Marjorie! It's front up to the Hakea and barge straight through! Now on a Compass course, we push across and over the ridges fighting the scrub all the way, till we finally reach our destination. Here some sit and gaze at the most Southerly tip of the mainland, while the sprinters fly down the 700' slope to the rocks below, and after having had their fill of the crashing seas, crawl back up again.

We lunch while overlooking the panorama of the Anser group of islands and the long slab of granite that is Wattle island. A great silence falls on the party as each catches up with their lack of sleep. However, shortly some unkind person wakes us up, and bravely we push off through the unfriendly Hakea again, up and down the gullies, till perfect navigation brings us right on to the top of Roaring Meg falls. A steep climb down and we arrive at our beautiful campsite. High rock walls confine the deep waters of the inlet, while Meg drops down behind us. A quick dip, a leisurely meal, and an early night for most of us.

In the morning we scramble around to the point in an exploratory manner, and sit watching the waves break over the headland. Who got wet when King Neptune threw an extra large roller over? And who or what is Six wheels North? A mystery that remains to be solved. After this we made our way back to camp, packed up and slowly climbed back up the slope to the top of the falls. A pleasant walk along the creek back to the lighthouse track, a stint across the sand dunes, and then a swim and lunch at Oberon Bay where we meet other members of the club. The walk back along the coastal track is ridiculously easy after the bash of the day before, and soon we are back at Tidal River and the milk bar.

It was a most rewarding walk, with it's sweeping panoramas of islands and opalescent seas; one of the few places left where solitude can be guaranteed, for the Prom. is now crawling with walkers of all sorts, and unfortunately some camp sites and beaches are littered with rubbish. Happily, we know of places that are still unsullied, even if difficult of access. Let's keep them that way!

***** Alma Strappazon *****

WALK 1971 is now available
MAKE IT A BEST SELLER

CLUB CONTACTS

Over the Christmas period, the club contacts will be slightly different from usual, so take care to note that those listed below will be on call.

From 25th - 27th December, 1970

1. Rex & Sue Filson p) 88-1165
2. John Siseman p) 878-1839

From 28th - 31st December, 1970

1. Edna Richards p) 857-6793
2. Rex & Sue Filson p) 88-1165
3. John Siseman p) 878-1839

From 1st - 3rd January, 1971

1. Edna Richards p) 857-6793
2. John Siseman p) 878-1839
3. Geoff Kenafacke p) 874-1147. b) 34-4651

Please revert to the normal contacts after the above mentioned periods.

A hearty welcome is given to the following new members:

Ann Bevan 39 Chaucer Crescent, Canterbury. 3126
 Peter Birch 2 Bundoran Parade, Box Hill North. 3129 p) 88-4867
 George Powell 26 Charnwood Road, St Kilda. 3182 b) 96-6011 Ext.10

NOTES

The News Convener would like to draw attention to the fact that too many articles for "NEWS" are being handed in after the deadline for contributions. More than one person is inconvenienced by this fact so do make a special effort to see that YOUR article is in the hands of the News Convener by the stipulated date mentioned below. Would future leaders of programmed walks also make sure they hand in a walk preview. It is to their own benefit that this be done. I also make a special plea to all Office Bearers as regards their Annual Report. Please have those ready no later than January, 31st, 1971. if that is at all possible thank you.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY "NEWS" IS: January 20th (Wednesday)

On behalf of the participants of the recent Bowling Evening, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Graham and Marijke Mascas for generously offering their home as a venue for the supper.

The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs is currently conducting a Survey of the general condition of Huts throughout the Victorian walking areas. If you think you have any recent or worthwhile information on huts (and perhaps which ones no longer exist), please contact Roger Brown as he has some forms available, issued by the F.V.W.C. Tracks and Huts Committee.

As mentioned in the Social Secretary's Report, a slide evening has been organized for January, 19th, 1971 at Judy Shegog's house at 124 Beach Road, Parkdale. 3194. p) 90-2703 b) 90-6066. Stuart Hodgson contemplates showing a selection of slides from his travels overseas. As Judy lives near the beach, bring your bathers for a quick dip in the sea. This will help you build up an appetite for the enjoyment of those sizz-ling hot chops and sausages (or steak if you must!) Please bring your own food and grog with you, or come after tea if this is more convenient for you.

DUTY ROSTER

23rd December - Jenny Mead
 30th December - No meeting
 6th January - Roger Brown
 13th January - John Sparkeman
 20th January - Barbara Davies

THE CLUBROOMS WILL BE
 CLOSED ON DECEMBER 30th
 NOTE! NOTE! NOTE!

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR POSITIONS ON THE COMMITTEE FOR 1971. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT ANY MORE NOMINATIONS, THESE SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARY BY THE 28th JANUARY, 1971.

- PRESIDENT: Graham Mascas.
- VICE-PRESIDENTS: Rex Filson & Geoff Kenafacke.
- SECRETARY: Jenny Mead.
- TREASURER: Alan Miller.
- WALKS SECRETARY: Tyrone Thomas.
- SOCIAL SECRETARY: Margaret Jorgenson.
- WILKINSON LODGE MANAGER: Peter Carlyon.
- NEWS CONVENER: Joy Seymour.
- COMMITTEE: Roger Brown
Bruce Meinke
Joyce Dunn
Sue Ball
Pam Collinson

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEWS CONVENER

Now that the season for much activity - walking or otherwise - is upon us, many events worth recording in Sue's Snippets column should eventuate.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could keep your eyes, ears etc. well and truly alert for anything "newsy".

Let others hear of them as well by media of the "NEWS".

Help keep NEWS ALIVE by feeding in plenty of articles.

Phone Sue Filson on 88-1165 or myself on 45-7545,
or submit your contribution through the post.

In addition I extend my utmost thanks to those contributors to this month's "News".

*** Barbara Davies ***

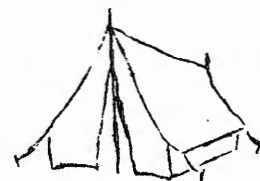
LOCH WILSON

692 Glenhuntly Rd.
Caulfield

For all

Bushwalking Equipment,

Climbing gear, Shirts, Pullovers, Sleeping bags.



Along the Track (Continued)HOT AND HIGH WITH ART

Thursday evening the 20.11.70 saw an eager group of Bushies making their way by private transport to the hills outside Licola. We arrived shortly before midnight having dodged speeding semitrailers on the way, and set up camp speedily in an inky blackness which seemed remarkably short of tentpoles!

Next day the early morning sunshine revealed the surrounding boulder-strewn mountains and the early risers were quick to take advantage of the bathing facilities afforded by the nearby river. Eventually even the slowest was packed and ready. A convoy of cars set out to negotiate the 12 miles of winding mountain road, leaving Roger's car at an opportune spot on the way.

Abandoning the cars, we set out on the shortest '1000' climb any of us had ever experienced, to the top of Mt. Tamboritha (obviously not Tyrone feet!) Once on the ridge the suntan lotion was produced from deep down in the depths of our packs, as the blazing sunshine made its presence felt. Frequent pauses were made along the ridge to admire the mountain scenery extending in all directions. Shortly before lunch, Warren wisely declined an invitation to repeat his previous week's performance of volunteering to fetch water, sharp eyes having detected the glint of water far below in the scrub. We also admired the rugged 'Butcher' country from afar, thankful that no closer acquaintance was made on this weekend.

Lunch followed in a scenic setting in which mountain everlastings and sunshine were predominant. John by this time sported elegant floral additions to his green army hat, and cases of sunburn were becoming apparent. The ridge walk continued to the campsite on top of some falls with surrounding spectacular scenery. Tea that night was sumptuous for one party at least - steak, potatoes, fresh pineapple and custard a 'La Spencer'. Art built a roaring blaze in a wombat hole and a stirring discussion followed on the merits of snake bite. Art promptly retired to sleep under the stars secure in the knowledge that should his roof develop a leak, he could choose from a large range of tents - large, new and luxurious or otherwise!

Sunday proved another sunny day with a frontal assault on Mt. Ligar, known more familiarly as The Crinoline by reason of its shape. From its summit we admired the distant gleam of our previous night's waterfall. Another steep climb followed, up the sides of Sugarloaf. Having gained our breaths once more, and fortified by cider-vinegar and honey jubes and swigs from assorted bottles, we came upon the steep jeep? track which marked an abrupt and extended downhill slog - down, down, whoops! not that down, off your knees and onto your feet. Fortunately said jeep track led straight down to the Wellington River, over and in we went. Much singing, general rejoicing in water. Lunch followed.

Roger and his car conveyed the drivers back to their respective cars and we were carried rejoicing back to Melbourne, having negotiated hordes of sheep first - Spencer's car in the middle of a flock of sheep is quite a hilarious sight!!

Thanks, Art for one of the best weekend walks the author has ever had.

**** Witchy's owner. ****