



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 258

October, 1970

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XMAS COMES BUT WUNCE A YEAR

The time has come again to start thinking of that Christmas trip. The following walks have been suggested so far:

(i) KHANCUBAN-GREY MARE HUT-JAGUNAL-KIANDRA-TANTANGARA-CAVE ROCK

Leader Geoff Kenafacke

Duration of approximately 9 days leaving mid January

The highlights of this trip will be exploring the limestone caves around Cave Creek.

(ii) MT. FIELD-MT. ANNE-LAKE PEDDER-FRENCHMAN'S GAP-GORDON RIVER

Leader Jon Cairns

Duration of 17 days

Trip is to leave Melbourne on 27th December. Jon has to make the bookings before the end of this month and there is a limit of 12 on the trip. If you want to go see Jon now!

(iii) SUGGAN BUGGAN-TIN MINE-COBBERAS-REEDY CREEK CHASM-SUGGAN BUGGAN

Leader Doug Pocock p) 83-5027

Duration of approximately 8 days leaving on 27th December

This will be a medium easy walk in some of the best of Victoria's walking country.

Before the walk the leader and his wife will be spending two days at Suggan Buggan. We will aim for early starts and get the bulk of the walking over by lunchtime before the afternoon heat. It is intended to spend a full day in the Cobberas

Your Walks Secretary would only be too pleased to hear of anyone else thinking of leading a Christmas trip. Contact Rod Mattingley on 878-4630 (home number)

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 September, 1970

Chairman: Alec Proudfoot

Present: Judy Shegog, Robyn and Doug Pocock, Sue Ball, Peter Carlyon, Rod Mattingley, John Sparksman, Tyrone Thomas, Roger Brown, Jenny Mead, Margaret Wark, Graham Mascas, Rex Filson, Dorrie Warton, Barbara Davies, Athol Schafer

Treasurer's Report

The Club's financial position continues to be very satisfactory. Past copies of "Walk" magazine are still selling quite well.

Walk Secretary's Report

There were a total of 235 people participating in walks during the last month. This is a record number since the inception of keeping records of numbers walking with the Club. The number of 235 was made up of 173 members and 62 visitors.

Social Secretary's Report

Judy is hoping to arrange a night to "Promises, Promises" for 19th October. All enquiries should be made to her, home telephone number 90-2703.

Search and Rescue

It was with regret that the resignation of Peter Johns was accepted. Peter has had to resign from Search and Rescue due to pressure of work.

Federation Report

Roger reported that a list is being compiled of the location of all huts in walking areas in Victoria. The completed list will be circulated for the information and retention of Clubs affiliated with the Federation.

VNPA Report

The V.N.P.A. has organised a lecture and film night on Wednesday 14th October at the Prince Phillip Theatre, Architectural School, University of Melbourne. The film to be shown is the BP film called "Shadow of Progress". In addition, films of national parks in the U.S.A. will be shown. Tickets are priced at 50 cents and can be obtained from Gwynnyth Taylor.

General Business

Applications for membership were received and approved in respect of Paul Bryant, Jimmy Wharton, Stewart Backhouse, Ronald Taylor and Graham Manders.

WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS:

- October 4 GLENLUCE SPRINGS-BELLTOPPER HILL-MALMSBURY
 Leader: Rod Peters Easy/Medium
 Map reference: Castlemaine Military 1:63,360
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Expected time of return 8.30 p.m. Fare \$2.10 Approx. distance 11 miles
 A walk through forest areas, mainly on vehicular tracks. There will be some open country to cross and a few moderate climbs.
- 11 COBAW RANGES-TAYLORS HILL
 Leader: Michael Garner p) 49-6765 Medium
 Map reference: Pyalong Military 1:50,000
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Expected time of return 7.30 p.m. Fare \$1.60 Approx. distance 10 miles
 This walk will be through undulating country up to 2,000 feet. The first quarter of the walk will be through farmlands.
- 18 BLOWHARD RANGE YEA RIVER MT. TANGLEFOOT
 Leader: Spencer George b) 63-2406 Medium
 Map reference: Glenburn 1:50,000
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Expected time of return 8.00 p.m. Fare \$1.70
 The walk will be downhill all the way along bush tracks. Some very good views across the neighbouring valleys will be obtained from the mountains.
- 25 HUME RANGES-WANDUNG
 Leader: Jon Cairns p) 86-8227 Medium
 Map reference Kinglake 1:50,000
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.30
 The leader promises that this walk will be most interesting and conducted with military efficiency.
- 31 OLDTIMERS DAY-EMERALD LAKE
 See details elsewhere

WEEKEND WALKS

- October 2-4 1. MELVILLE'S CAVES-MT. KOUYOORA
 Leader: Michael Griffin p) 81-8376 Easy
2. BOTANY WALK
 Leader: Rex Filson p) 88-1165
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 6.30 a.m. Fare \$4.50
 1. Leader's comments: I have been unable to locate the map reference in the Club's files but the search continues. I would be grateful to any person who would acquaint me with the correct map reference.
 About the walk I know nothing; but this time I promise I will turn up. They tell me it is guaranteed dead easy.
 Note to Rex - try adding something to this.
 Editor's note - this preview was dictated under extreme stress and we can be lucky we have anything at all.
- 17-18 Federation Track Clearing
 The track clearing this year is to be held on the Howqua River. The track to be cleared is one of the access tracks to the proposed Alpine Trail. Anyone interested in any further information should contact Roger Brown p) 57-6729 as soon as possible.

WALK PREVIEWS (contd.)October 23-25 ELDORADO-MT. PILOT-BEECHWORTH

Leader: Graham Mascas p) 50-2995

Easy/Medium

Map reference; Beechworth 1:50,000

Van leaves Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m. Expected time of return 10.00 p.m, Fare \$5.80 Approx. distance 25 miles.

Come and follow in Ned's footsteps (he must have walked some of the way!) among the gold and tin mines of this area. The planned walk will take you from Eldorado over the hills to Mt. Pilot which offers expansive views over a wide area. If it hasn't rained for a while be prepared to carry water for Saturday night. The following morning we descend to Woolshed Falls for Sunday lunch then a quick trot, up hill of course, to Beechworth. If we are energetic enough, there will be time for a short exploration of Beechworth with all its historic associations before our return.

NOTICE!

ATTENTION!

ACHTUNG!

TAKE HEED!

NB!

ETC!

September is the M.B.W. month for concerted Clubroom cleanups. This is YOUR chance to come along on Saturday 26th September to make YOUR Clubrooms sparkling and salubrious. Don't leave it all to Graham, Marijka and children, come along with detergent, plastic buckets, scrubbing brushes etc. and have a spring clean. Let Graham know and BE IN IT MATE. You've nothing to lose but the skin off your knees and knuckles. M.B.W. will also paint toilets and will do some renovating in our committee room during September.

NOTES

Anybody who is likely to be at Whites River early in December, please contact Doug and Robyn Pocock.

After the heavy rains recently, water is flowing down Chalka Creek, but the main level of flood water has yet to reach the Hatta Lakes.

The death, on 9th September, was noted with sadness of the well known field Naturalist Noel Learmonth. Some of our older members may remember him well.

It was decided at the last Committee meeting that the Committee member on duty is empowered to co-opt any member of the Club present to help him or her in the cleaning of the rooms. Members are asked to co-operate if approached.

My thanks to contributors to this month's "NEWS"

Jenny Mead,
"NEWS" Con'enor

DUTY ROSTER

23rd September - John Sparksman
30th September - Barbara Davies
7th October - Doug Pocock
14th October - Graham Mascas
21st October - Dorrie Warton

FILM NIGHTS

7th October - Doug Pocock - Feathertop
21st October - John Sparksman - Moscow

Promises, Promises on 19th October
Contact Judy 90-2703

SUE'S SNIPPETS

Fred Anchell is home after spending some time in the USA. Whilst there, he did some walking with the Sierra Club. Our Club is celebrating the largest membership since its foundation but we have a long way to go before attaining the 100,00 membership boasted by the Sierra Club. They programme to 30 walks a week graded from "Walking your dog" to "Climbing the Himalayas".

Just moved into a beautiful new home Ron and Gwynnyth Taylor have a mammoth task ahead to organise their garden in time for the welcome home party for the Wandering Brownlies.

Looks like early in the new year we can expect an influx of little bushies to join the clan.

If you are wondering what happened to the other Ss turn the page. Please note Jeff.

With all the skiing accidents occurring on the slopes of Mt. Buller, we can count ourselves lucky that we have so few injuries while bush-walking. Not so lucky was the member of a party of walkers led by Bruce Menke who dislocated his shoulder while climbing Frenchman's Gap in Tasmania.

It would appear that Ron couldn't fathom out what Phillip saw in bushwalking, especially after the Lerderberg. He has joined to see what really happens. We are becoming quite a family affair.

Bit confusing having two R.G. Taylors.

I would say that Ron F. slides were the best technically that we have seen in the Clubrooms. Hope its not too long before we see some more.

We welcome these new members to the Club and hope their stay is a long and enjoyable one.

- Margaret Ellis - 10 Baird Street, East Brighton 3187
- Walter Cavill - 62 Rose Avenue, Glen Waverley 3150
- Marion Paule - 18 Rosshire Road, West Newport 3015
- Ronald Taylor - 64 Hartington Street, Glenroy 3046
- Juli Hofsteede - 58 Fewster Road, Hampton 3188
- Stewart Backhouse - 35 Moorese Street, South Caulfield 3162
- Gaaham Manders - 125 Beach Road, Sandringham 3191 p) 98-6728
b) 949-6112

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OLD TIMERS REUNION

The date for this, the fourth year of the annual old timers reunion, is 31st October. The Reunion is to be at Lake Emerald. Transport is private. Those families attending may like to put the children on Puffing Billy at Belgrave and pick them up at Emerald. Puffing Billy leaves Belgrave at 11.30 a.m. and 2.15 p.m. (check these times).

Felix Harding is the organiser and can be contacted at home on 97-5538.



Such was the popularity of Barry's weekend walk that we are printing two versions of it.

A SHORT HISTORICAL RAMBLE

Twenty-three bushies and twenty-three packs in a 'Thirty van' with one seat missing, resulted in a somewhat cosy affair for those concerned. Although we travelled via Geelong to this area which is just south of Ballarat, we were indeed fortunate to be settled in our respective abodes by ten o'clock (and Hughie really sent her down then!).

The morning sun's few brief appearances were enough to produce more than a few pairs of lily-white legs amongst the group. Our leader began by assuring us that all walking would be on flat ground but the sceptics were quick to argue that point. All the same, we were eager to be on the move in search of our long overdue fortunes. After about ten minutes of walking we arrived at the first of many mines to be seen this weekend. This was the Birthday South mine, which yielded a substantial amount of gold in its heyday. The main features to be seen here were the extensive remains of brick foundations which once supported massive ore-crushing machines. Barry enthusiastically produced a wad of notes and related some most interesting information for us to ponder over.

On through Berringa we strolled, noting one building in particular. This was a church once but now serves as a shearing-shed! Whilst inspecting William's Fancy, Birthday and Happy Birthday mines, the thrill of sliding down mullock heaps was discovered by a number of energetic members, and stationery joy-rides on a very rusty T-Model Ford amused some others.

After a long lunch lying lazily in the sun, we moved on to look at an historical graveyard, much overgrown with weeds and grass. As it was discovered that no 1970 gravestone was in evidence, some of us looked amongst our own kind for a suitable addition, but our greedy leader insisted on keeping all of his flock alive. Before we had gone much further, we were heavily hailed upon unexpectedly. This continued for the next hour or so. Arriving at a soggy white campsite we soon had our tents up and no less than ten fires were glowing with people busily engaged in cooking their famous bushie recipes.

No sooner had we awoken on Sunday morning than an unwelcome visitor chose to soak us persistently for the next few hours. Nevertheless we rambled(?) on through scrub and more scrub until we were greeted with a 'Short' road-bash for variety. At last we came to Piggoreet or rather the site of it. Apparently several thousand people once lived here but all that now remains to remind one of this fact is a stone cairn marking the site where the old school once stood. A short distance from this area we approached the spectacular Devil's Kitchens - sheer walls of rock rising hundreds of feet from the swiftly flowing creek below.

Perplexed cries of "how many more of these blessed holes in the ground will I have to look at?" were heard from several anonymous bushies. More brick foundations, more mullock heaps, more rusty old junk and more holes in the ground were to be the order for the rest of the day, so those few poor souls had no choice in the matter. Barry again told us considerably more information about these next few, namely the Jubilee, New Jubilee and Jubilee North mines.

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Along The Track (Contd.)

Crouching under trees and huddling under capes and parkas, we ate what lunch we could while the skies burst forth their wet contents upon our miserable, cold souls. Of course the rains stopped as soon as we began walking again. So on we marched to meet the van, making the most of the room afforded us until the mob of day-walkers were added to the load. And thus our hysterical ramble came to a close.

Many thanks to you, Barry and Gwenda for making this weekend so interesting (and easy!).

Barbara Davies

A SHORT HYSTERICAL RUMBLE - AUGUST 28-30

For most of the weekend I was preoccupied with keeping both feet from slipping on the muddy ground. In those few places where the route was not sufficiently treacherous to require downturned eyes, I was either blinded by a renegade burst of sunshine or forced to shield my peepers against the driving hail. So, you will readily understand that I did not see much and am thus a totally inadequate reporter of the Historical Ramble.

But I was asked and will oblige. What follows is (more or less) pure fantasy - impure fantasy would doubtless be censored.

We began with a rain storm, which coincided with the tent pitching process. Barry camped in a tree stump and it took several hours next morning to extricate him. This explains our late start.

Along the road we cantered, eventually stumbling over a mullock heap which proved to be the remains of one of the Birthday mines. After two verses of Happy Birthday, Barbara fell down a non-existent mine shaft and we moved on. Stewart brought up the rear with his bagpipes.

Hours later, after demolishing three hundred and two mine sites with a total of five thousand head of stampers (courtesy PMG - six cents please), Gwenda cajoled Barry into stopping for lunch by tipping the contents of his feed bag into Tyrone's mouth. Snow started falling and Tyrone was served up for stew.

The afternoon proved equally uneventful. We lost Sue (one of them) under a pre-dusk carpet of hail which also managed to whitewash the campsite. Jenny and Michael (the other one) were singled out for the scandal column but sleep was more important. Just before dark, Ron was heard to mumble incoherently about Barmah.

Next morning a sea a mud floundered into life. Tony burnt his tent down to prove that it wouldn't catch when wet, but the leader was unimpressed and skated quickly uphill. Woeful cracks about assault and battery continued all morning as we combed our way through the maze of Jubilee mines. Pam collapsed from sunstroke and so lunch was declared. Three quarters of the party drowned in the resulting deluge.

The day wore on. Peter was lost three times and found twice but not before Sam had read about his disappearance in the local newspaper. The newspaper office bore a striking resemblance to a blacksmith's forge, but I am not so easily fooled.

Continued on Page 8

Along The Track (Condt.)

Eventually we found Sue's morris minor in a quarry. It had been expertly canouflaged as a tractor. This was too much for Leila, who staggered out to the van, only to find that it had been poorly disguised as Eddy's VW.

No fantasy could compete with the behaviour of the day walkers; so I will desist and offer our collective thanks to the leader and his offsider. I think that the poetry readings were a good idea, too.

Michael Griffin

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FEATHERTOP SNOW WALK

Morning at Harrietville. A heavy frost gives hint of a fine day to follow. In the distance the snow covered Razorback beckons. Breakfast over and the group is off, steadily gaining height on the Bungalow Spur. Tobins Gap is reached and the first snow. Ahead we see Feathertop covered in snow, behind us is Buffalo and further over is Howitt. At last Feathertop hut, a welcome lunch is eaten. Some of the group decide to camp in the foot or so of snow, the others seek the shelter of the old hut, somewhat dilapidated but still quite habitable. Lunch over, too cold to sit around, on to the summit. A quick look at new Feathertop hut, not impressed, waste of money. Around Little Feathertop on frozen snow. J.C. looking very chilly - could use more than a loincloth in winter. To the east the snow covered Bogong High Plains. On to the shoulder of Feathertop complete with cornice. Thank heavens for steps cut in the ice. The wind is stronger up here, very cooling:

The summit cairn at last, only two feet showing above the snow. Don't walk too far onto the cornice. To the north east is Fainter and behind that Bogong. Cobberas and The Pilot are identified. Further over that must be Kossie. Blue sky, clear air, oh joy.

Back to our homes for the night. Fires lit in the snow to slowly sink to ground level. Clear sky, cold night. Put on all clothes to go to bed. Leader's lilo deflates.

Next morning cloudy and blowing. Plastic sheet sledging championships held on slope above hut. The Leader declares himself the winner. Back down to the cars for lunch. Hard to believe such a different world exists on the mountain above us. Back to Melbourne, back to work, oh gloom.

Doug Pocock

AUSKI 9 Hardware St.
Phone 67 1412

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